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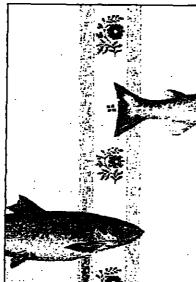
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£30 for a postcard? Yes, but one of these might be worth £4,000

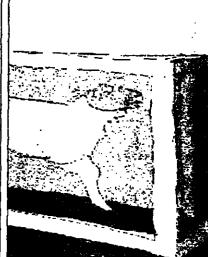












One of these pictures could be by Edouard Paolozzi, another could be by Frank Auerbach, and for just £30, prospective buyer will merely be patronising a talented art student. The purchasers can lay claim to a minor masterpiece worth up

til Sunday features 1,600 examples of postcard art, half of which are by well-known artists. Visitors can register their their purchase but only on Sunday will they be allowed to

know the artist. For those who think they who know their work - but all will be revealed in Monday's Independent.

Major faces mutiny by ministers

and Anthony Bevins

John Major is facing ministerial mutiny over the European single currency at the start of the general election campaign, with defy government policy in elec-

Conservative campaign by directing media attention to the Tories' most divisive weak spot - Europe - and such an open breach of collective ministerial responsibility would prompt demands for ministerial rebels to be sacked.

A senior government source said last night that rifts over Europe were more damaging the closer they broke to an election. In an election campaign itself, they would be "seriously trou-

He said that while aberrant behaviour could be expected from some "green" candidates. disciplinary action would have to be taken against ministers who issued electoral addresses that flew in the face of the national party manifesto and

:ollaps

damage party credibility.
Unlike MPs, who automatically lose their jobs once Parliament is dissolved for an election, ministers stay in office until a new Government takes over and could risk instant dismissal for a breach of collective ministerial responsibility. Labour

would demand nothing less.
It has been estimated that as many as two-thirds of Tory candidates could locally dissociate

themselves from the national manifesto line; that no decision can be made on sterling entry into the single currency until firm terms have been agreed, af-

ter the election. Tory Euro-sceptics want the frontbenchers threatening to Prime Minister to stand on a

the wait-and-see line. But senior Conservatives believe the tensions of the election campaign will snap the rigid, wait-and-see agreement that was forced on Mr Major by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth

Clarke on Tuesday. A parallel is being drawn between the current Tory truce and the 1983 Labour deal on nuclear disarmament which so effectively destroyed the credibility of Michael Foot's first and last election campaign as

Labour leader. In that campaign, deputy leader Denis Healey and former prime minister, James Callaghan undermined the manifesto commitment to a "non-nuclear defence policy" every time they

reiterated their views. The Conservative Euro-scep tics believe that a number of Cabinet Ministers will be tempted, during the election cam-paign, to cast doubt on British participation in the first wave of the single currency. By delivering coded challenges to the wait-and-see policy enshrined in the Tory manifesto, they would attract headlines while avoiding

The names of Michael

Howard, the Home Secretary. and Defence Secretary Michael Portillo are being nominated as the most likely ministers to step over that line.

Every time that happens, the party will look less and less credible. The Westminster suspicion platform defending the pound, is that once Mr Major loses that tion addresses to local voters. and despair that this week he essential credibility, and risks
It would risk derailing the deepened his commitment to losing to Labour, the gloves will come off for the Tory leadership contest that is certain to follow election defeat.

In that event, it is said by senior Tories, it will be everyone for themselves as the potential contenders make their individual pitches to a Conservative parliamentary party that is expected to be much more rightwing and Euro-sceptic than it

has been since 1979. That deadly political scenario was being painted in the aftermath of Tuesday's Commons statement by Mr Major. which was itself greeted with bitterness by some of the more emotional Euro-sceptics.

But the Tories pro-Europeans are equally determined to resist further attempts to reopen the policy. The Positive Euro-pean Group of Conservative MPs has brought forward its weekly meeting from Monday of next week, to tonight, and according to senior officials it will be discussing how to con-solidate the Prime Minister's acceptance that existing policy will not be changed this side of an election. One source said: "The first step, really, is to make sure



Independent Christmas Appeal

Help us to help victims of abuse

At the end of a year in which The Independent disclosed some of the worst child-abuse scandals ever revealed, today we launch our Victims of Abuse appeal to help children whose lives have been devastated by abuse.

Our Christmas appeal is in support of projects run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. including its helpline and direct support to help children who have been abused and to prevent abuse.

The terrible toll of years of abuse suffered by more than 100 the London Investigation Team, children in Clwyd was first re- which works with the police and was the launchpad for a campaign which eventually won government action to tighten standards in children's homes.

Recent child-abuse scandals in residential homes form a grim litany - Cleveland, Frank Beck in Leicestershire, pindown in Staffordshire, Bryn Estyn in Clywd, Ty'r Felin, in Bangor. Gwynedd - and these children had been taken into care because it was thought that they would be safer. In the community, we heard of cases such as Daniel Handley who was abducted, abused and murdered by two paedophiles, and Rikki Neave, whose mother was sen-

tenced to seven years for cru-

elty. Countless other stories have never been heard.

The NSPCC runs more than 120 projects offering counselling and therapy to abused children, as well as carrying out its own investigations into allegations of abuse. The charge relies on public donations for 85 per cent of its income. We would like you to contribute between now and Christmas, Your money will go to help projects such as the NSPCC's 24-hour freephone helpline, which takes on average 1,200 calls a week. paedophiles, and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle. which treats children who have abused other children.

Over the next few weeks we will be telling you more about the projects, starting today with a day in the life of workers on the NSPCC helpline. A coupon for making your donation ac-company that article. Victims of Abuse appeal, page 10



Butcher told of poison risk

The award-winning butcher at the centre of Britain's worst food poisoning epidemic sold suspect meat after twice being told by health officials to withdraw it.

As the epidemic claimed its seventh victim, it emerged that John Barr had promised officials from North Lanarkshire Council that he would sell no cooked meats after they identified his shop in Wishaw as a possible source of the outbreak. But, less than two hours later, he supplied turkey, ham and roast beef for an 18th birthday party at ly, are giving cause for concern. which several people appear to have been poisoned.

party said yesterday that they were considering legal action. Environmental Services De-

who held the party at the Cas-cade pub in Wishaw for their daughter, Lauren, said a relative checked with Mr Barr and officials from the Lanarkshire Health Board before guests were offered the meat - both in-

sisted that it would be fine. Strathclyde Police and the Procurator Fiscal, the Scottish crown prosecutor, have now been called in to investigate the outbreak. More than 330 people are suspected of being infected with the E.coli 0157 bacterium. Of those, there are 176 confirmed cases, 52 are in hospital and 24, mainly elder-Mr Bart, this year's Scottish

Butcher of the Year, was not The family who threw the available for comment yesterday, but a spokesman for the William and Fay MacFarlane, partment of the North Laguests had been put at risk. One

narkshire Council said its officials had contacted him on Friday 22 November when they realised there was an outbreak of E.coli poisoning.

"At 6.30pm, we told Mr Bart that his shop was a possible source of the outbreak and we asked him not to sell any cooked meats for the time being. He agreed not to," said the spokesman. "The following day, at 7.30am, our officers visited his shop to conduct tests and again asked that he not sell any cooked meat. Again, he

However, at 9am, a relative of the MacFarlanes visited the shop and collected cooked meats for the party. Through their solicitor, Paul Santoni. the MacParlanes expressed anger and concern that their

elderly female relative is in hospital with E.coli poisoning and a number of others from the 106 present are il).

The man who collected the meat was Mrs MacFarlane's uncle, David Moon. He told Mr Santoni that he spoke personally to Mr Barr and was fold that the scare related only to corned beef and chopped pork. "Mr Barr told Mr Moon there was no need to worry about the other meats," said Mr Santoni. The day after the party, Mr Moon found a message on his telephone answering machine from Mr Barr saying he could

arrange an alternative supply if there were any concerns about his. But by then, it was too late. Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, said he was growing ever more concerned about the outbreak. He said:

"The thing that is causing me most anxiety, are the reports which we are getting from the local authority that the meat was supplied for the function ... by the butcher the day after he agreed to cease the sale of cooked meat. I look forward to receiving an explanation for

that. Also there is concern that

there might have been further

outlets supplied on or after

Saturday 23 November. The local authority said it would be inappropriate to comment on that suggestion. Mr Barr's solicitor, George Moore, said he was "surprised" that the health board had given out details of meat supplies when the matter was under investiga-

The seventh victim, a 74-yearold man, died at Monklands hospital yesterday morning.

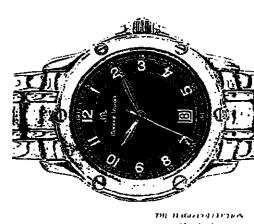
Sexy but wrong

Bank jobs go NatWest announced that it is to shut 300 branches and cut a third of its workforce - 10,000 jobs - as the Banking Om-budsman reported registered complaints against banks rose by 8 per cent. Pages 3 and 20

Palestinian death

Amnesty said the death of Rashid Fityani. 26. a Palestinian prisoner killed by a guard, confirmed the reputation of Yasser Against Palestinian Authority for ill-treating inmates. Page 15

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significant shorts

Paris talks over Guernsey fishing rights

Talks are to take place in Paris tomorrow to resolve the Guernsey and France.

Representatives from Guernsey, Britain and France will try to solve the dispute, which came to a head on Monday, when 10 French trawlers invaded the Sark Box, a lucrative fishing area south of Guernsey in defiance of a ban imposed

by the island's authorities. A Home Office spokesman said last night that a Royal Navy fishery protection vessel had taken up station in Sea Isle waters. Philip Jeane

Extradition for Mafia daughter

minister, Michael Ancram, arrived in Brussels yesterday The daughter of a convicted to explain Government Mafia leader yesterday lost conditions for Sinn Fein's her HighCourt battle against admission to peace talks. Mr Ancram said he wanted to extradition to Italy where she is wanted on drug-trafficking charges. Maria Merico, 26, "iron out misconceptions" in Europe about these demands will have to return to Italy or about the peace process in general. Katherine Butler within two months. If found guilty, she could face 15 years in prison. Charlie Bain

Coma mother strike over pay dies in hospital

voted by a margin of 85 per A woman who gave birth in cent for an indefinite strike a coma following a car crash has died in hospital, Karen over pay. The 140 drivers have been offered a 2 per cent rise, giving them £248 Battenbough, 25, died at Clydach Hospital in Swansea, for a 49-hour week, but they want an extra 1.4 per cent in having spent 22 months unconscious. Her kidneys failed common with managerial and after oneumonia set in.

£30,000 fine for human fireball accident

Jackson, 32, became a human

fireball after molten metal set

Mr Justice Hidden said at

his clothes alight. He died in

Nottingham Crown Court:

employees beggars belief.

Peace process

Chauffeurs to

Whitehall chauffeurs have

administrative staff.

explanation

The Northern Ireland

The lack of thought by this

hospital 12 days later.

to govern their behaviour, in-cluding the catch-all charge of "bringing the party into disre-pute". In soccer this phrase A Derby smelting company, Bernhard Metals (UK), was covers a number of the more interesting sins, encompassing abusing fellow team members as well as pulling down your shorts and revealing your botfined £30,000 and ordered to pay £20,000 costs yesterday after a furnaceman died in an horrific accident. Labourer Anthony tom to the crowd.

Unable to go about their usual business of sitting around complaining about Brown and Blair, they left the meeting and barrelled into the Chamber looking for someone else to abuse. And found - to their boisterous delight - the Government's charismatically challenged trade and industry team sitting in a row on the front bench, just asking to

nearly three to one for new rules

be duffed up.
To describe the fiftysomething group of Messas Lang,



The large audience made the ministerial fog bank even more painfully dense than ever

shades, nuances and moods which often go overlooked. A bar full of retired assistant bank managers discussing with prof-its annuities at a joint golf club and Rotarians fund-raiser, holds out more prospect of hi-

So the naughty boys' bench (where Dennis Skinner always sits) had eight, rather than the usual two occupants. The heck-ler's area (at the back, beyond the gangway) was also well populated, with George Foulkes and Tony Banks engaging in a personal competition to see who could get the best one-liners and abusive names inserted at delicate points in Tory MPs' questions or minis-

ly large and unappreciative audience was to make it even more success then! roared the shouted Tony. The Offel regulator was opposed to Labour's painfully obscure, dense and vapid than ever. Labour's Kevin Hughes (Doncaster North) mischievously asked Richard Page, Under Secretary for Small Business, Industry and Energy about deregulation (incidentally this is a bad title, since the "small" appears to apply as much to the energy and industry as it does to the business, suggesting that the minister is both lazy and

ineffective). "How many items of legislation have been repealed since the beginning of the deregula-tion initiative in 1994; and how many statutory instruments [that is, new regulations] have been introduced in that peri-

od?" was Mr Hughes's question. There had, mumbled Mr Page, been 93 repeals and 315 naughty boys. Mr Page made the best of a had job. Mr Hughes "did not quite grasp the principle of deregulation", he floundered, explaining that "we live in an increasingly complex world". Most of these regulations were measures for con-sumer protection. Did the Opposition not "want to remove carcinogens from babies' dum-

mies?" he asked, desperately updating one of politics' oldest

Few were enjoying this more than Tony Banks. No Conservative was safe from an interjection from the member for Newham North West and (if polls are to be believed) destined to become the first elected Mayor of London. Charles Goodson-Wickes (Wimbledon) was opposed to the 48-hour di-

Labour's bad gang seeks safer targets lator was opposed to Labour's windfall tax, said another Con-servative. "Tory stouge!" came

But who did he remind me of? Then I twigged. Tany Banks is metamorphosing into Captain Haddock, the permanently (and comically) earaged sidekick of Tintin the boy detective, whose stock-in-trade was a collective. stock-in-trade was a collection of colourful terms of abuse such as "Coelacanthsi", "bashibarouksi", "vegetariansi" and, of course, "billions of blue blis-tering harnacles!" The blue barnacles affixed to

the government benches may not appreciate the new Haddock but Tone-tone, the boy leader, certainly will. So as long as loyal Banksy keeps his shorts on, he will prosper, even under the new disciplinary code.

Skeleton staff: Solomon Carty cleaning the replica diplodocus at the Natural History Museum in London. The dinosaurs lived 150 million years ago Photograph: Adnan Dennis

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

In this week's Radio Times, Andrew Duncan reveals the

personality behind the glasses of the

Australian megastar and discovers some unusual findings.

RadioTimes

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BACK ISSUES

Gummer pledge on genetic maize

Labour has called on Ian Lang, the president of the Board of Trade, to take "immediate steps" to stop genetically-altered American corn being allowed to enter the British food chain.

The Independent revealed yesterday that ministers had been warned that the American corn was on its way and that it posed a risk to health. Nigel Griffiths MP, Labour's

spokesman on consumer af-

fairs, will raise the matter in parliament by calling for a new government inquiry into the dangers of the American corn. 'I want the Consumer Safety Unit at the Department of Trade and Industry to evaluate

the threat to British con-

sumers," he said. Yesterday, John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, went on BBC radio to pledge that he would not allow the US to export its genetically-modified maize to

Mr Gummer said: "It is true that the Americans are trying to force this on to Europe without us making our own minds up

One of the important reasons for the EU is that we are strong enough to say to the

Yesterday, The Independent revealed details of a memorandum to Mr Gummer written by Dr William Parish, of the DoE's Chemicals and Biotechnology Division, which warned: '[The maize] will be imported shortly despite the fact that it is not authorised in an unprocessed form and that the UK objected to proposals to au-thorise it." He adds: "There is bound to be concern that [the maize] represents a risk to hu-

man health and safety or to the environment." The genetically-altered prod-uct (GM Maize) has already been mixed with normal com for export by American growers. British officials admit they

cannot tell the difference once the two are mixed. The memo warned that the GM Maize was expected to arrive in Britain early this month.

It states: "A selective ban on imports from the USA would remove an important source of raw material from the food and feed processing industry in the UK and raise trade ques-

"It is too late for those users awaiting their supplies of the US maize to secure other lines of supply at this stage."

Only half a day's supply of blood left in South

Glenda Cooper

Stocks of blood have fallen so low in London and the South East that there is only just over half a day's supply left, the Na-tional Blood Service warned yesterday.

It is restricting blood orders to hospitals to the minimum possible and warns that the next move could be to cancel all operations except emergencies. Donations in London have

dropped by between 10 and 20 per cent which has coincided with a run on blood following the recent cold snap. Christmas and New Year is

traditionally one of the most dif- service launches its Christmas blood transfusion service, where stocks can fall by as much as 30 per cent. But Peter Gibson, head of communications of the London and South East zone said that it was "unusual" that they were experiencing problems two to three weeks before

the Christmas period. "This is very low going into the Christmas period," said Mr Gibson. "All it needs is a serious incident and we will be under a great deal of pressure and we cannot rely on other parts of

ficult periods of the year for the appeal today. Every day 10,000 units of blood a day are needed to supply hospitals but at present only 6 per cent of the population donate blood.

Nationally, figures are slightly down with the National Blood Authority holding 13,500 units yesterday instead of 15,000 but a spokesman said there was no question of a national crisis.

In Scotland blood supplies are also running desperately low as hospitals battle to cope with the E-coli 0157 outbreak, the Scottish National Blood Tranfusion Service(SNBTS) said the country to help us out." fusion Service(SNBTS) said
The London and South East yesterday. At the launch of

their national Christmas blood appeal, SNBTS said the outbreak was placing one of the "biggest ever" demands on blood products. "We just have to repeat our urgent message to encourage people to come for-ward and give blood," it said. The heaviest demand has

been for plasma products where toxins produced by the E-coli bacteria are washed out the system using healthy plasma from frozen supplies.

New donors are advised get

in touch with their local blood service if they wish to donate. or ring the National Blood Authority on 0345 711 711.

Carey

pleads for the

family

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury,

Dr George Carey, yesterday called in Rome for Catholics

and Anglicans to fight togeth-

er for family values.
"Both our traditions place

great emphasis on the family and

family life. Anglicans can say with Pope John Paul that The future

Andrew Brown

Crackdown on lottery ticket sales to children

newsagent has been fined £500 for selling National Lottery tickets to a child in the first prosecution of its kind, just as Oflot, the lottery watchdog, ordered a crackdown on underage gam-

bling. Undercover children are to be recruited to trap shopkeepers who sell tickets and scratch cards to under-16s and retailers will be required to display a hotline number which people can call if they witness under-age

Ofiot's director general, Peter Davis, described the existence of habitual young participants in the lottery as "disturbing"

He said: That these children also tend to be involved with alcohol, tobacco, drugs and fruit

mination to stamp out illegal and irresponsible behaviour by some

Yesterday a court in Leeds heard how two investigators from Camelot accompanied a 13-year-old girl into a newsagent's where she was sold an Aces High Instants ticket and a National Lottery draw ticket. Naheem Bashir, the shopowner admitted selling the tickets but claimed he thought the

Mary O'Shea, prosecuting for West Yorkshire Trading Standards, told Leeds Magistrates' Court that the police and then Camelot were tipped off by the girl's stepfather after she bought a ticket from N & N Newsagents, in Armley, Leeds, in March this year. She said:

girl was old enough to buy

even though in the investigators' view she does not look older than her 13 years."

"Although he was of previously good character this case is a salutary lesson that one can never be too careful. This is not a had man, but unfortunately he has fallen foul of the situa-

Fining Bashir £250 for each of two offences of selling lottery tickets to a person under 16, with £325 costs, the chairman of the bench, Dr B Chaney, warned him that retailers had "an absolute obligation" to take care not to sell tickets to under-age

The Oflot warning followed new research which showed that 3 per cent, of children were becoming persistent users of scratchcards.

of the world and of the church passes through the family." Dr Carey quoted several ma-jor Catholic documents in support of his argument for the mportance of family life, delivered during a lecture at the Anglican Centre in Rome. Though he has publicly disagreed with Pope John Paul II on contraception and the role of women in the church, the importance of family life to both church and society is a theme

he two leaders agree on "The churches are ideally placed to make an enormous contribution to underpinning good parenting and faithful loving relationships. The family is a paradigm of the King-dom of God."

Today he meets the Pope for substantive discussions. He also celebrates a eucharist in the chapel of the English College in Rome, training place for



tury Englishman known as the Elephant Man because of his grotesque appearance, did not suffer from the disease that is named after him, it was claimed

Radiologists in London say X-ray and CT scans of Merrick's remains suggest that he did not have neurofibromatosis, the disfiguring condition some-times called Elephant Man dis-

pital he suffered from a much rarer disease called Proteus

syndrome. Neurofibromatosis causes uncontrolled growth of nerve cells, giving rise to unsightly tu-

There have been fewer than 100 recorded cases of Proteus syndrome, which involves the abnormal growth of bone and soft tissue. Both conditions are thought to be genetic.

Metrick, who was portrayed would be expected of someone

Elephant Man, died in 1890 at the London Hospital, where he lived for four years after being rescued from a life as a circus freak by the doctor Frederick Treves. His remains were kept

the Royal London.

The magazine New Scientist reported: "Sharma says that his skeleton shows the tell-tale signs of Proteus syndrome and lacks the characteristics that

rick's skeleton is studded with bony outgrowths, predomi-nantly on the right-hand side. His ring finger and femur are both enlarged, and his skull has a circumference of 91cm, compared to the 60cm typical for a man of his beight."

Merrick's spine was also not sharply curved, as would be expected in a case of neurofibromatosis, and his ribs lacked

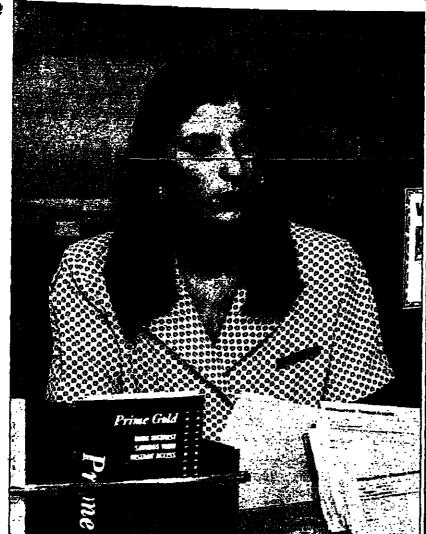


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HE INDEPENDENT +

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Foreclosing on the human touch







Services withdrawn: Thousands of counter staff will disappear from banks and building societies over the next few years. Also doomed are the top-hatted staff of the discount hou

Banking Correspondent

The changing and increasingly anonymous face of banking - the bank manager has all but disappeared from the local branch - has led to a big increase in complaints from customers about the standard of service they receive.

On the day that NatWest announced it was cutting 10,000 jobs, around a third of the workforce over four or five years, the Banking Ombudsman, the public's watchdog on the banking industry, this year received 22 per cent more telephone enquiries and complaints, and registered more than 7,000 complaints against banks, an increase of 8.0 percent over last vear.

NatWest is to close 300 branches.

Big increase in bank complaints as staff disappear

scribed as "vulnerable", such as the elderly. "Some of the worst instances of maladministration appear to stem from attempts to achieve greater efficiency by closure of branches, computerisation and other moves towards rationalisation," the Ombudsman said.

The days when the bank manager was one of the best-known characters in the local community are fast disappearing. The chances are the manager's branch will have been closed or merged with another branch. Bifu, the banking union, calculates that nearly 3,000 high-street branches have been closed in the last

customers, especially those he de- Nat West, Midland, Lloyds TSB and in which customers will communicate quiries but to pay bills and alter di- as Sainsbury offering banking services

century, writes Peter Rodgers.

leges of a seven-strong band of discount houses, in the

biggest reform of the money markets for more than a

The discount houses are banking intermediaries used

by the Bank of England since at least the late-19th cen-

tury to control interest rates set by the big dearing banks.

Barclays - plan to close more with managers via television screens, rect debits. They want to bank out- and building societies planning to be-branches in the years ahead. The CoThe banks argue that they are closside office hours and importantly, come banks too.

operative Bank is going one stage fur-ther, closing all its branches and tomers want. Customers want bank the service to be cheap.

The industry is also becoming

replacing them with "tardis" booths via the telephone, not just for en-more competitive with retailers such

The City's traditional money men to go An old City tradition will disappear early next year, when the Bank of England abolishes the last formal privito the telephone and the top hats were shelved. Under reforms announced yesterday, the Bank of England will open up the short-term sterling money markets to dozens of banks, building societies and securities firms,

of UK and continental ownership. The discount houses will have to fight to survive against the new competition. The Bank said the new system would bring the setbut Laurence Shurman, the Om-six years, leaving just over 10,000 at budsman, said closures were affect-ing both business and personal a

"They are under pressure to de-liver cost efficient services." Mr of mortgage. Shurman said. He warned, though, that the closure of branches in small towns could cause a conflict of interest for the one bank, say, remaining on the high street. This is because the one bank could be handling all the accounts of the businesses in the town.

Not all of the rise in complaints banks was due to efficiency drives. Mr Shurman said 32 per cent of the complaints received were about mortgages and lending compared Business, page 21 contrast, complaints about cash ma- to £150,000.

chines were 6.5 per cent of the total compared with 36 per cent in 1992. Mr Shurman is recommending that the "Code of Banking Practice"

he changed to require banks to give customers a "reason why" letter to explain why they have been recommended to take out a particular type Of the complaints made, just 736

were accepted for full investigation because of a greater willingness by banks to resolve complaints by agreement and because complainants have not always exhausted the bank's internal procedures when they approach the Ombudsman. The smallest compensation award

was £15 while the highest was £56,740. But because the Ombudsman had to turn some large complaints away during the year. Mr

...and it's goodbye, too, to the Man from the Pru

Clifford German

The Man From the Pru, one of the most enduring features of the financial-services industry, and better known until a generation ago to millions of working-class families than the bank or building-society manager,

may well be retired.
Collecting monthly insurance premiums from door to door in all weathers is now timeconsuming, inefficient and ex-Salesmen earn substantial salaries, and are no longer willing to travel from door to door equipped with a bicycle and a battered brown attaché case. In many areas collecting cash from door to door is downright dangerous. It is now much more efficient

operating policies after deducting the salesman's commission now swallow an excessively large proportion of the premiums. In a cost and competition conscious world where insurance providers are obliged to show the charges they take out of insurance funds, and they are increasingly judged by their skills in building up cash values, the traditional door to

5.800 door to door agents. The Prudential, which was the largest single provider of in-dustrial life policies, no longer

to collect premiums electronically from a bank or building-society account, and the costs of and women to go round collecting premiums on existing policies.

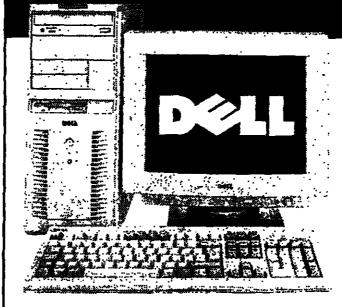
Most policy-holders now have bank or building society accounts, but many families have more than one policy with dif-ferent maturity dates to meet specific needs. An estimated 45 million policies are still in existence, and provide a lifeline for families who regard an insurcreasingly poor value.

The Co-op now employs the largest direct salesforce, with 5,800 door to door against Transitional way of saving money for special occasions and buying life assurance to help custoon the loss of a bread-winner.

Until now however it has been impossible to change the method of payment while maintaining an existing policy. New government proposals will make it possible for policy-holders to pay by direct debit or standing order and to pay at less frequent intervals. Insurance companies which operate industrial life policies would also be permitted to pool their in-dustrial life policy funds with other policy premiums and manage them more efficiently.

Policy-holders who still prefer to have their premiums collected will not be obliged to alter their payments, but the changes are expected to lead to a sharp drop in the number of new policies sold and a fall in the numbers of salesmen employed. But the man from the Pru does not necessarily face redundancy, a spokesman said. Most will be redeployed in office work.

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Curry is not so hot as the British stick to pub grub

lan Burreli

The television schedules may be full of programmes teaching ex-otic cookery secrets, magazines might carry features on celebrity chefs and describe cookery as the "new rock 'n' roll", but this is just the gloss on the chicken in aspic: the sad truth is that Britain's food revolution has totally passed half the country by.

A two-year study by re-searchers at the University of Lancaster found that 48 per cent of Britons had not eaten a single meal in an Indian, Chinese, Italian or any other restaurant diffused among the British popserving foreign cuisine in the

Even the cheaper prices of a takeaway could not tempt the tastebuds of 27 per cent of the population, who said they had either never tried one or had not touched one for at least a year.

While the chatter in Kensington is about the relative merits of tempura at the nearest sushi bar or Gang Penang Gung at a favourite Thai eaterie, much of the rest of the rams. Only 4 per cent said they

In Bristol, widely regarded as a cosmopolitan city, 61 per cent of the population admit to shunning foreign restaurants. In Preston, where there is a wide per cent of people never partake of it. Or of any other ethnic food.

Professor Alan Warde, who headed the research team, said: "There is a sufficiently high level of abstention from foreign foods, and an enduring popularity of the English public house in the provinces at least, to suggest that exotic tastes are still far from thoroughly

ulation." Researchers interviewed more than 1,000 people in London, Bristol and Preston about don, Bristol and Preston about their eating-out habits. In the study, Indian restaurants were used by 33 per cent of respondents, Italian by 31 per class in particular has shown a cent, and Chinese by 29 per cent. marked disinterest in the influx

of international cuisine. More than two-thirds (68 per cent) of semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers said they avoided "ethnic" restancountry is still resolutely tuck-ing into the classic British "meat" (Indian, Chinese, Italian and other ethnic) in the past year.

(57 per cent) and junior white collar workers (55 per cent) also shunned foreign food. Even among professionals there was choice of tandoori cooking, 51 a sizeable minority (22 per cent) who had not visited an eth-

nic restaurant for at least a year. The favoured locations for a meal out remain the pub or the old-fashioned tea shop. Michael Barry, host of the BBC's Food and Drink pro-

gramme, said much of today's pub grub originated from overseas. "Lasagne, moussaka, chilli con carne and all those mincedmeat based dishes from around the world now tend to be taken for granted as English food,"

The rapid growth and increasing variety of international cuisine is being supported by a dedicated hard core of mainly

middle-class "foodles". The Lancaster researchers found that 34 per cent of professionals had eaten in all four categories of ethnic restaurant population". Pass the chips. in the past year.



The research, to be published early next year, showed that foodies are likely to have been educated at selective or private school, be aged between 30-49, and have parents from the professional classes.

Most of them live in London, which has the greatest variety of ethnic restaurants and where 70 per cent of respondents had tried at least one foreign restau-"If learned acceptability of

Warde said. He concluded that there was still "widespread conservatism in taste among the English

ethnic food, or its frequent

consumption, is an indicator

of multiculturalism, then its ex-

tent is still limited," Professor

Man with machete | Albert Hall premiere with spots on 'planned a Dunblane'

Horrett Campbell: Hid in flat

having a teddy bears' picnic that

ing a light bag which held a ma-

chete, a large knife and a

washing-up liquid bottle con-

taining petrol. There were two

bars with sponges attached which could be used, he said, as

Surinder Kaur, and struck them

He then ran towards anoth-

waiting with her young child. Mrs Willington threw herself on the ground, covering her child.

Campbell struck her on the

head, causing serious injuries.

Miss Potts began shepherd-

on the head from behind.

He went up to Azra Rafiq and

a sort of fire bomb".

Campbell left his flat carry-

afternoon.

nic had "copy-cat" elements in common with Thomas Hamilton's murders at Dunblane, a

court heard yesterday.
Three children, aged between three and four, and four adults were injured in Horrett Campbell's rampage at St Luke's Church of England infants school in Blakenhall,

Wolverhampton, on 8 July. Campbell, 33, of Villiers House, a tower block over-looking the playground of the school, pleads not guilty to sev-en charges of attempted murder. He has admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent and one charge of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

Richard Wakerley QC, for the prosecution, told Stafford Crown Court that police found two newspaper cuttings attached to the wall in his flat, one about Michael Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania, and the other about Hamilton. His attack had other similarities with theirs.

Those injured by Campbell were Ahmed Malek, three, Rhena Chopra and Francesca Quintyne-Peart, both four, Rhena's mother Surinder er mother, Wendy Willington, Chopra, Azra Rafiq, Wendy Willington, all 29, and Lisa Potts, 21, a teacher.

Mr Wakerley said a class of 20 children were in a grass

Formerly The Spastics Society

Copy-cat elements in nursery attack, jury told

ing the children into the school. Campbell went towards her, striking out at Ahmed Malik, leaving him with deep lacerations to the arm and to the head. His skull was fractured.

Campbell then struck out at Rhena Kaur-Chopra, daughter of Surinder, slicing her across the side of her face.

Miss Potts was still bringing children inside. Mr Wakerley children mistue. Mr wascary
said to the jury, "You may well
be astonished by the courage of
that young girl as she could so
easily have shut that door, gone
further inside to find help, gone
to her headmistress." to her headmistress."

Mr Wakerley continued: "She then realised young children were still outside with this man waving the machete and she went out again. She completely, you may think, disregarded her own safety.
"But for her action this

tragedy could have been so much worse. She went back outside the school as the children clung to her. She pushed some of them back inside and gathered others up in her arms."
But Campbell approached

and struck her with his machete on her head, back and arms. Mr Wakerley added: "Notwithstanding that, she continued to drag the other little children back to school into the doorway and pulled it hard to close it.

Campbell struck out at Francesca Quintyne with his machete. Her jaw was frac-tured and part of her ear cut off. He returned to his flat, light-

ing two small fires in the tower block as a diversion. He remained hidden in the block until the next day, when he was

Mr Wakerley said the jury might decide he was mentally unbalanced during the attack. He added: "But we suggest that the true question is not why he did it but in striking these people did he intend to kill them? If that intent was to kill, then it is attempted murder.'

In police interviews Campbell described how he had thought about the attack for up to a month before.

Mr Wakerley added: "He thought that the school had turned against him because young children had jeered at him when he walked past."

Mr Wakerley added: "He told the police that he thought both Hamilton and Bryant had been misunderstood by society... They had been driven to do what they did, namely in-discriminately kill others, just as he had been driven to do what he did. There are elements of copy-cat here, are there not?



Dog's life: Reshooting Discey's cartoon classics with real people and animals could regenerate the entire back catalogue

Arts News Editor

What do you do when everyone has seen the original movie? You release the film on video naturally, and if you're fun-loving Walt Disney you let it be known Cruella De Vil-style that you had better buy it quickly as it might be withdrawn

And when all the times have been given their 101 Dalmatians video for Christmas? You release the film again, only this time with real people,

Whoever had this profit-maximising idea should be rising rapidly up the Disney corpo-

The scope is endless. Sixty years of movies to re-shoot with Hollywood's finest and a forest of wannabe animals. Gwyneth Paltrow as Snow White, with Danny De Vito leading the seven dwarfs? Genuine deer for Bambi, with a guest appearance from Prince William playing the hunter perhaps?

As if real stars and real dogs were not enough, Disney also amounced that last night's premiere at the Royal Albert Hall, attended by Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels, Joely Richardson and the rest of the cast, was the first of their "Event

Hall was being used for a film premiere for the first time since 1927 and Charlie Chaplin's *The* Gold Rush - and not the fact that Mick Jagger

and Jerry Hall attended together.
As part of "The Event", the £60m movie was followed by a themed party, held with no great thematic significance at the Royal Geographical Society, but with a catwalk show (catwalk perhaps not the perfect theme for the ultimate doggy movie) with models showing off dalmatian outfits designed by Vivienne Westwood, Katherine Hamnett et al.

The film has already broken box office records in America, or at least one uniquely American box-office record. It is the biggest Thanksgiving movie of all time, amassing \$46m over the five day holiday last month.

It may usher in a new era in Britain too. Seeing a movie at the Royal Albert Hall with its rows of private boxes showed that there could be a future in watching movies with a group of friends or contacts, drinking and eating all the while. The age of corporate cinema could be upon us.

Dalmatian facts and fiction

Over 200 daimatians were used in the making of the live action film."

Wifer born, the pupples do not appear to have spots at all, they are all white. The first spots are not obvious until 10 days old.

■ 6.469,952 black spots were drawn by Disney animators for the 1961-cartoon.

A dalmatian's skin is pink with bluish-

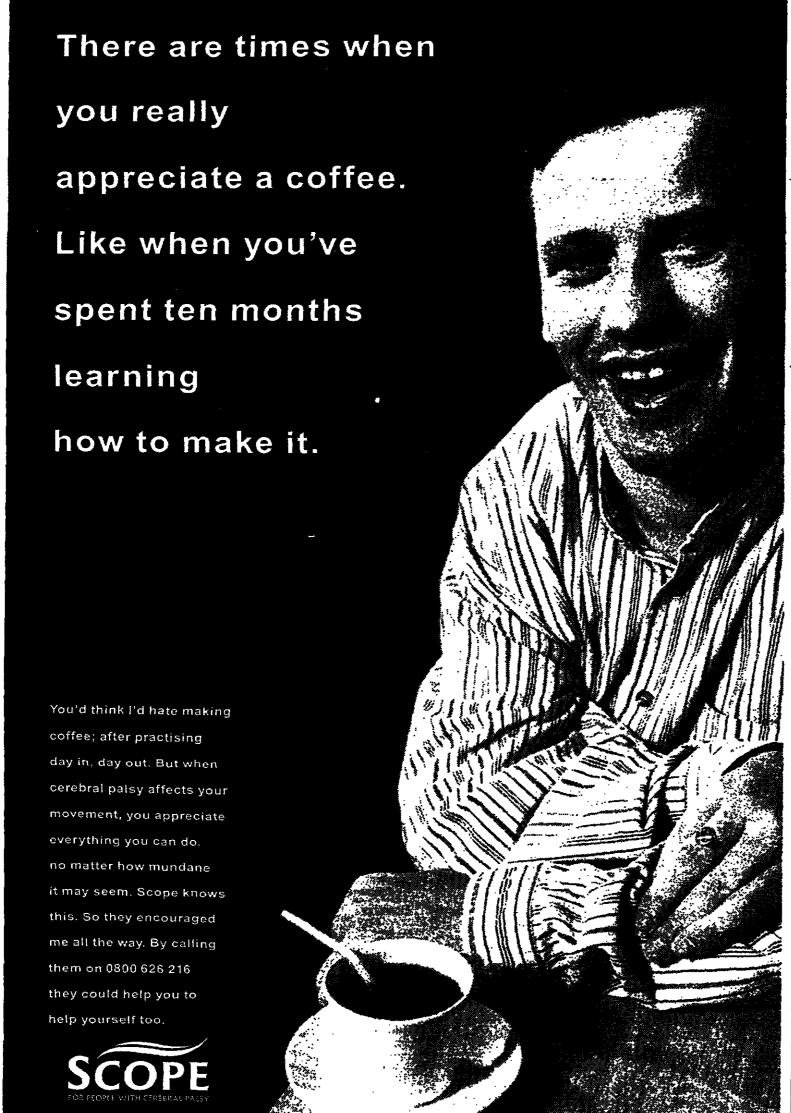
An adult will grow to 60lbs and 24 to 25 Inches tall at the shoulder.

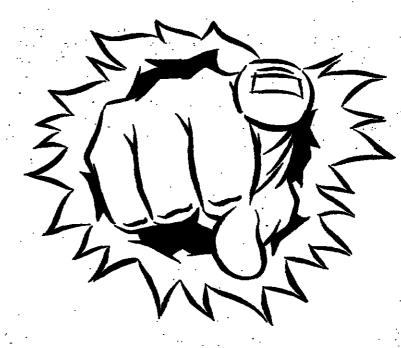
About one in ten suffers from deafness disability connected with their white coats.

■ Nicknames: English coach dog, firehouse dog, plum-pudding dog, and spotted dick.

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RIC

spots on The first Eurostar passenger service to run since the Channel Tunnel fire arrived in Paris yes-Carrying only four passengers. The 5.50am from London

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MANTS?

The only passengers now arriving on Eurostar: Mrs Marvel Crumpacker and daughter

claimed that the lack of pas-

she complained.

Eurostar spokesman Roger Harrison said trains had to run

dered Mrs Crumpacker said: "I other three passengers arrived at the Gare du Nord station in at Ashford station and it was so Paris, they were greeted with the diers armed with automatic weapons and knives, who had been drafted in after Tuesday night's attack on the Paris underground. Trains are expected to run up to half-an-hour late while repairs are undertaken to damaged track. Full Channel Timnel services may not run for

Robert Malpas, said that work on repairing the fire-hit section of the tunnel would take "three ney through the tunnel, the to five months", and that when sengers at Calais. There was no passenger shuttle trains start running again next Tuesday, the company will have about two-thirds of a normal service going through the tunnel.

Both Mr Malpas and Eurostar UK deputy chairman, Adam Mills, strongly refuted suggestions that their companies were putting profits before safety in recommencing Channel;

sengers was because safety of-ficials only agreed at 6pm on Tuesday for passenger services to restart. People had not had terday, 15 minutes late and a chance to book, it was said. Fiona McCallum, 33, the train manager, said that she had Waterloo left on time with 15 never known such a scarcity of customers. "We usually have about 200 passengers, mostly business people, on this train,"

> regardless of the number of passengers to ensure rolling stock and crew were in the right place to meet timetable commitments. Mr Harrison said that he expected more people to be using services later. As Mrs Crumpacker and the

empty. We thought it would be sight of ranks of police and solbusy. We are going home to-morrow and this was our last chance to go to Paris. Friends booked us tickets on Monday but we couldn't go. We didn't realise this was the first train." The journey held no fear for them, said her daughter. "We don't feel nervous at all," she said. "We've heard a lot about as long as five months. saw it in the film Mission Impossible. After a 30-minute jour-

sign of any damage from last month's disastrous fire which caused millions of pounds worth of damage and forced one of the two tunnels to close for extensive repairs. The train was, however, obliged to drop its speed from 100mph to 60mph as it travelled through the undamaged tunnel in the area of the fire. Eurostar



train crew and 10 reporters, but

not a single paying passenger on

stop at Ashford in Kent that

Mrs Marvel Crumpacker, 58, a tourist from Fort Wayne, Indi-

ana, and her pregnant daughter, Denise Bouwers, 35,

climbed on board for a day-trip

to Paris. Eurostar staff prompt-

ly rushed forward with a bottle

of champagne to help them celebrate. A somewhat bewil-

was surprised when we arrived

train picked up two more pas-

It was not until the scheduled

its 800 seats.

Payments scandal reaches president

An IR£10,000 contribution to the Irish Labour Party for the 1990 Presidential election campaign of Mary Robinson was among the numerous political contributions made by supermarket group Dunnes Stores, it was disclosed

Reports claim that a total of 12 politicians and different parties received payments totalling IRESm (£5.005m) when the firm was being run by Ben Dunne, who was ousted as chairman in 1993 after a drugs and sex scan-dal. The Labour Party confirmed the payment yesterday, following reports that Dunnes' payments went beyond those to transport minister Michael Lowry who re-

signed last Saturday.

A former Flama Fail minis ter, dubbed simply "You Know Who" in yesterday's newspaper headlines, has so far declined to respond to calls from his own party to explain the IR£1.1m payments he received from Dunnes The payments were detailed in an accountants' report after unusual cheque payments were noted after Mr Dunne's depar-

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The Deputy Prime Minister, Dick Spring, spoke with a mem-ber of the Dunnes family yes-terday and said afterwards: "They [Dunnes] want to co-operate in every way possible to clear up these matters. They understand the pall of suspicion derstand the pain of suspicion over the body politic because of these allegations." He added: "It's an appalling situation that reflects very badly on the body politic. It is in every politician's interest that the information now being spoken about in the back of the bar is put into the public domain where it can be dealt with."





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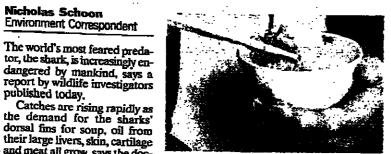
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£200' and meat all grow, says the doc-ument from Traffic, the Cambridge-based wildlife trade monitoring organisation. Yet there are no international agreements between countries setting limits on the catches, and the monitoring of the numbers caught is very poor. Traffic puts the figure at somewhere between 30 million and 70 million a year.

Most of the slaughter is accidental, with the predators caught up in nets put out for other fish. But shark's fin is regarded as a delicacy in some countries and trade has more basking shark, a plankton than doubled in the 15 years up basking shark, a plankton feeder which swims close in-

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

published today.



on Hong Kong, where a bowl of shark's fin soup can cost up to £60, while the fins themselves can sell for more than £300 a kilo. The colony also imports and exports them from and to dozens of countries.

Sharks can easily be overexploited because they are not prolific breeders and grow slowly. This autumn, several shark species - there are nearly 400 in all - were added to the official Red List of threatened animals. These include the huge

The hunter that became the hunted The great white shark is the largest predatory fish. It grows up to 15ft in length and weighs up to 1,700lb.

At least 1,000 people are killed annually by sharks, 70-80 per cent of them off the coast of Africa, South

Most classification systems divide lish into three classes: jawless, cartilagenous, and bony.

Demand at the dinner table

leaves sharks in the soup

shore around Britain in the

summer, and the largest of the

fish- and man-eating sharks,

the great white. Both of these

species are categorised as "vul-nerable" - the least-threatened

level on the Red List, Four

species of sawfish, which are

relatives of the shark, and four

shark species are classed as

endangered, or critically en-

dangered.

The government of the Isle

Sharks fall into the cartitagenous category, Class Chondrichthyes. There are nearly 400 species of shark distributed over tropical and temperate zones, particularly around New Zealand and South Africa, belonging to 19 separate families.

under the Cites treaty, the international agreement which seeks to control or ban the trade in endangered wildlife.

Dozens of the huge, harmless fish, which can weigh several tonnes, arrive in the waters of the Irish Sea around the island in the summer, but local laws prevent them from being caught within the island's 12-mile limof Man has officially asked the it. They are killed for the large.

quantities of oil in their liver. The Government has not yet decided whether to apply for a Cites listing.

America and Asia, Waters around

died there after being attacked.

Australia are especially dangerous; since 1898 at least 420 people have

"There's a desperate need for basic information to assess the threat posed by the global trade," said Steven Broad, dir-ector of Traffic, which is part funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature. "What we do



Taking the bail: The great white shark is now on the Red List of threatened species

Police raid home of gun-lobby campaigner

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Police have seized more than 200 weapons and 30,000 bullets from the home and business of one of Britain's leading pro-gun

Richard Law, the outspoken secretary of the Shooters' Rights Association, which has been fighting to reverse a government Bill to ban most handwas arrested by investigating officers and later released on bail.

It emerged afterwards that Mr Law had his gun licence revoked by the Metropolitan Police in 1983 after he was caught carrying two revolvers at a market in London.

Mr Law yesterday accused the police of a "classic harassment" campaign aimed at disrupting his organisation's attempts to defeat the Firearms Bill currently going through Parliament.

Six police officers confiscated all Mr Law's weapons on Tuesday from his gun shop and home at Llanerchymeudwy Ll-wyndrain in Dyfed Powys, west Wales. Weapons, including pistols, rifles, shotguns and swords, worth up to £100,000 were taken during the operation on his Home Office-approved firing range and dealership. Among the guns were a col-

lection for export to France. Under the Firearms Bill handguns must be sold to foreign dealers or destroyed by the police for compensation. There is concern that vast numbers of firearms held in Britain will be trans-ferred to Europe and the US.

Police also revoked his gun and gun-dealing licence, and the shotgun and firearms certificates for his wife Elizabeth and shotgun certificate for his daughter Helen. The police argue that the family are not fit and proper people to hold firearms licences. Mr Law will appeal against that decision in court.

A computer, files and licences relating to Mr Law's work as a gun dealer and firearms expert witness were also taken, he said.

Mr Law, 44, whose wife planned at one point to stand as a gun-lobby candidate at Dunblane in the general election, said he had been served notice revoking licences for weapons in his armoury.

His premises were searched by 24 officers and he was arrested three hours later in connection with another incident before being bailed to return on 10 February to his local police station. The police had removed a number of firearms from his business about a month ago.

Mr Law said yesterday: "This looks to me like old fashioned harassment. There is a connection that this happened the day before the report stage of the Firearms Bill." He said he had licences for all of the weapons seized.

They were looking for a way of closing us down. Which they have succeeded in doing. Without the tools of my trade I will be signing on the dole today." He confirmed that he had his licence revoked while living in London and had been prosecuted in court, but argued it was a misunderstanding and an "oc-cupational hazard".

The Shooters' Rights Association has led opposition to the Dunblane parents' calls for a

complete handgun ban.
Ann Pearston of the Snowdrop Campaign, which wants to ban all firearms, welcomed the raid, and said: "It seems quite justified that he has had his licences revoked. I just hope he doesn't get them back on ap-

A spokesman for Dyfed Powys police denied there was any campaign against Mr Law. A statement said: "As a result, a number of firearms and dealer-related certificates connected with the premises have been revoked and all weapons and ammunition at the premises have been removed by the police."

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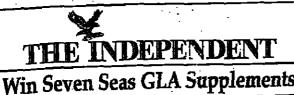




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		PARI	S	
Prev. Train No.	New Train No.	Orig. Waterloo departure	New Waterloo departure	New Ashford departure
9078	9078	05.08	05.50	06.53
9002	9004	06.19	06.57	07.57
9006	9008	07.23	07.53	08.53
9010	9012	08.23	08.57	09.57
9012	9012	08.53	08.57	09.57
9018	9016	10.23	09.53	-
9024	9024	11.57	11.57	12.57
9028	9028	12.53	12.53	13.53
9032	9032	13.57	13.57	
-	9036	-	14.57	
9038	9040	15.23	15,53	•
9042	9044	16.23	16.48	17.57
9046	9048	17.15	17.48	-
9048	9048	17.48	17.48	-
9052	9052	18.53	18.57	19.57
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Prev. Train No.	New Train No.	Orig. Waterloo departure	New Waterloo departure	New Ashford departure							
9110	9110	06.53	06.53	07.53							
9116	9118	08.27	08.53	09.53							
9120	9186	09.27	09.57	10.57							
9124	9130	10.27	11.53	12.53							
9132	9142	12.27	14.53	.*							
9140	9142	14.23	14.53	-							
9152	9152	17.19	17.19								
9156	9158	18.27	18.53	19.54							

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صكنا من الاعل

Little boxes everywhere (even the cows look alike)

John Gummer rails against the monotonous condition of a too-neat Britain

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

The drift to uniformity in town and country epitomised by the housing estate home of Ford Mondeo man and fields of oilseed rape came under scathing attack yesterday at the launch of a new map charting the character of England.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, railed against the orderly and the neat, and said children were being left a "terrible legacy" by volume housebuilders. "If you were taken blindfold to the

centre of most recent private developments you would find it impossible to know whether you were in Carlisle or Chatham," Mr Gummer said. Any difference would not be due to a sense of place but "merely connected with the marketing strategy" of the builder,

More biting criticism came from Richard Wakeford, chief executive of the Countryside Commission, one of the two government agencies which combined to produce the

🐃 Ashfold

and bereitung.

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Decisions taken from the marketplace and the debating chamber were causing a "creeping and insidious trend towards uniformity", Mr Wakeford said.

"Modern, mass-produced housing - with just a touch of the vernacu-



the Ford Mondeo parked outside, by the cupressus leylandii hedge. Every high street seems to contain the same

"In the countryside, the colours of lar if we are lucky - is a backdrop to cows now give no clue as to where breed now in the fields of their na- of about £100,000 each, ignores Downs, Fens or New Forest might

they are munching; the crops that are tive Lincolnshire. And other cattle county boundaries and divides the planted owe more to Brussels than to our regional differences in Eng-

and. We are losing our diversity. Lincoln Reds are almost a rare mission and English Nature at a cost

with county associations, such as the country into 159 areas with a com-Hereford, are going the same way. The map, produced by the com-

mon wildlife, landscape, and to

some extent, cultural characteristics. Some areas, such as the South

Mondeo land: This housing development in Rochester, Kent, could be anywhere in the country. Even breeds of cattle are losing their regional identity

Main photograph: David Rose Main photograph: David Rose

be thought to be readily identifiable without a map. But the agencies point to others such as the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge which might not. It runs north from Nottingham for about 100 miles yet is

only eight miles wide.
It is typified by rolling hills cut through by river gorges, more wood-land than surrounding areas, limestone villages and plants such as lily of the valley and bluebells. The limestone is also a source of the clean water needed by the renowned regional breweries at Tadcaster and

Defending the map against doubts about its practical value, the agency heads maintained it would be an important tool in making better deci-

sions about guiding landscape change and protecting wildlife. Both agencies began separate work on maps in 1994 but joined forces two years ago on realising the scope for confusion,

Mr Gummer insisted the map was "not a means of getting out of the proper protection of special places". and that statutory landscape and habitat designations would not be affected.

However, the map is likely to be used in formulating planning guidance - to help reinforce local identities and perhaps fire the ssionate sense of local lovality which Mr Gummer regretted the English did not share with the

FIFA97

Lessons for teachers on school security

Education Editor

Teachers will be trained to deal with violent intruders, ministers promised yesterday.

Robin Squire, the schools minister, said that some of the £66m being allocated for security would be used specifically for the purpose. But personal safety advisers warned that they should not be given lessons in

Experts from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, which is involved in a school security research project for the Government, said that training in self-defence could be worse than useless.

They were speaking outside a national conference on school security held almost exactly a year after the murder of the London headmaster, Philip Lawrence, which led to the establishment of a government working party on school secu-

Tony Dickens, of the Suzy that teachers should not be porting.

message is about awareness and avoidance. It is not about

"You can get hurt if you use self-defence. And then there is the question of what is 'reasonable' force which you are allowed to use to defend

Instead, he said, it was better to train teachers in how to defuse aggression. Schools in the strategy of sending a child to deliver a book to the teacher in the next class if either a pupil

or parent threatened violence. That meant that help was summoned and everyone calmed down Teachers interviewing difficult

parents should always do so in a room with a glass panel and ensure that someone came in regularly to check all was well. John Andrew, general sec-retary of the Professional Association of Teachers, agreed

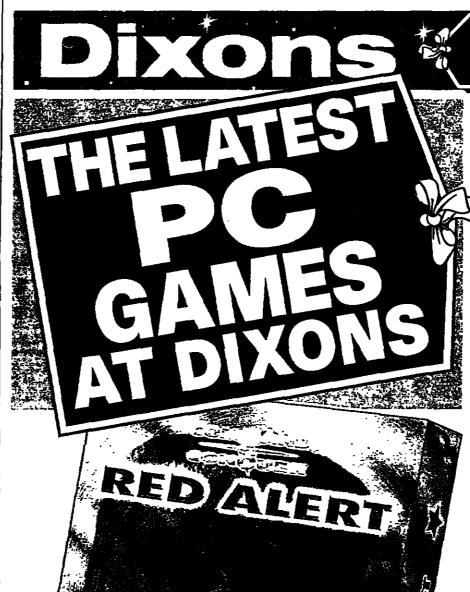
added: "Part of the training has to be not only what to do but what not to do. There are circumstances where the best thing to do is to walk away."

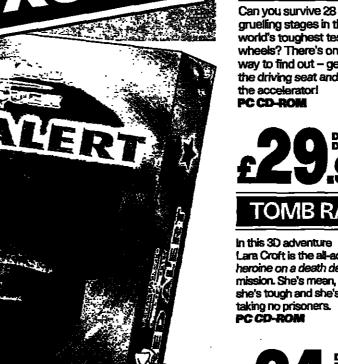
Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said: "No one can rule out any incident in any school.

'What all of us want to feel is that we have done all we sensibly, reasonably can - while

She said the Government was prepared to consider changes in the law to give police any extra powers they might need to improve school

Research being carried out by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust with academics at Leicester University, is investigating the type of violent incidents which arise in schools. Mr Dickens said that he believed there was a considerable amount of under-re-





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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMA



A farewell to oaks: the native tree that symbolises our supposed national virtues - strength, power and endurance - is under threat. Thomas Pakenham has photographed his favourite examples across Britain

Thirty years ago Ken Loach made a film about a Liverpool dock workers' strike. This year they are on strike again and he has been back to make another film. The differences between the two are a social history of our times



Party time for New York high society is not without its tiffs and tears: we tell the story of the Costume Institute Ball and the battle over who will be queen for the night

> Plus: meet the lamp that thinks it's a chair in the home of the future

THIS WEEKEND'S NDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY The phone rings: it could be another beaten child or an abused

"Oh dear, yes, I have been busy."... "So you're saying the child has sleeping difficulties. Is that it?"... "I appreciate you're at the end of your tether." ... "How high was the capboard." "How high was the capboard." The crisis calls come thick and first – more than 139,000 a year. "Mary" is one of a team of 32 telephone counsellors who answer as many of the calls as they can – 57,000 a year. That





Clare Garner on the NSPCC hotline where the calls come thick and fast leaves 82,000 cries for help for NSPCC information, requests for legal advice to reports of adult survivors of child abuse.

'FIND KEY SEASON

THE DIFFERENCE"

A total of 7,621 of the 57,000 Child Protection Helpline calls Child Protection Helpline calls
answered last year were concerning child abuse, be it sexu
refers between 100 and 120 al, physical, emotional or cases each week to the social neglect. The other 49,379 were services, police and its own

jects. The phone bill alone is £90,000. Mary, 59, is a trained social worker who joined the NSPCC

Child Protection Helpline six years ago.

To callers, she is just an anonymous voice. But Mary is

also a human being with feel-

ings and emotions of her own.
Spending all day listening to
other people's concerns has other people's concerns has left Mary reluctant to speak of her personal affairs. "I didn't know I thought all this till I said it out loud to you," she said, in-terrupting herself.

"I am human. So when I put

the phone down, say after a 45minute call. I can be quite moved by what the person said to me. I can't just pick the pieces up and deal with something else - I've no idea what it's going to be - so I gate the phone for a short time while I empty my

head a bit." She has been in the NSPCC headquarters, near Cannon Street tube station in London. since 9am. Whatever time of the day or night, on whatever day of the year, the scene is the same. It's a timeless zone, up and running 24 hours a day, 365

days a year. The office is unglamorous. Six desks with six headsets, telein a medium-sized room looking out on a grim, concrete car park. Rows of multi-coloured information files for different areas of the country line the far end of the room, above which is a large digital clock displaying both the date and the time. In contrast to the predictable surroundings, no one knows what to expect when they pick up the phone.

The phone rings and it could be someone saying: I hear this child next door crying all the time and a lot of banging. I don't want to get involved, here's the address," said Mary.

"Or you could get a mother who has just found out that her daughter has been sexually abused by dad. I'm just holding she has realised it, realising that there are going to be so many ripples from that allegation."

Mary listens, takes notes and provides the caller with the necessary information where she can. She never talks about at any time. The freephone herself to callers. "I'd never ever

say to anyone 'I had an accident and felt like that', or 'I've got daughters, I know what you mean'. I don't think people want to know about me.

If a call comes through at 12.25pm, her 12.30 lunchbreak is postponed. Sometimes it's hard to go back to work after the break. Tears welled up in her eyes as she admitted: "If the callers

have been particularly dis-tressed in the morning there's a danger of thinking: 'Is everybody like this? Is any child safe? Is there nothing light about this job?" Occasionally I might feel like that, but once I get back on the telephone, you

start again."

After Mary logs off, she tries to forget her work. Sometimes that's hard. "We don't get much feedback. We often don't hear what hereness." she said what happens," she said. At other times it is easier.

"When someone rings back, be it to say 'Yes, the child left phones and computers on them on its own, or 'Yes, the father's arrested, she was sexually

When I put the phone down, I can't just pick up the pieces and deal with something else'

abused', it's only then you realise how valuable your intervention has been.

The Child Protection Helpline costs £1m a year to run. The phone bill alone is her distress and, really before £90,000 a year. Please give gen-

> If anyone has any concerns about the welfare of children then they can contact the national child protection belpline



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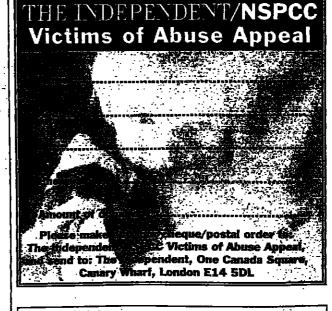
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DAILY POEM

Monopoly

By Paul Farley

We sat like slum landlords around the board buying each other out with fake banknotes, until we lost more than we could afford until we lost more than we could afford or ever hope to pay back. Now our seats are empty — one by one we left the game to play for real, at first completely lost in this other world, its building sites, its rain; but slowly learned the rules or made our own, stayed out of jail and kept our noses clean. And now there's only me — sole fresholder of mery approx office received in terms. of every empty office space in town, and from the quayside I can count the cost each low tide brings – the skeletons and rust of boats, cars, hats, boots, iron, a terrier.

Paul Parley was born in Liverpool in 1965 and studied painting at the Chelsea School of Art. He has worked as a painting at the Cheisea School of Art. He has worked as a cinema usher, courier, seene painter, spider wrangler and librarian, and began writing poetry after attending Michael Donaghy's City University Poetry Workshop. He won the Arvon/Observer Poetry Competition in 1995 and this year was chosen by Poetry Review as one of their new poets of the year. Tonight be reads, with Tracey Herd, in the Voice Box on the South Renk at 7 30mm.

Eurohit by throug.

Discipl for Lab

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

* 1. Mar. * pr

Charle and is

The Government's departments in Whitehall risk becoming like a car boot sale after the disclosure that Nicholas Winterton, the outspoken Tory MP for Macclesfield, forced the Transport Minister, to reprieve an £8 million road in his constitutions.

in his constituency.
With the Government's majority reduced to one, Mr Winterton, a mav-erick backbencher, in effect held the Government to ransom before the vote on the Budget.

The Department of Transport yes-terday confirmed Mr Watts had put the improvements on the A523 between Macclesfield and Poynton back into the roads programme after heavy lobbying by the MP.

Having secured his road, Mr Win-terton happily voted with the Gov-ernment. But two Tory MPs are on the warpath over their local hospital.

The Department of Health will face renewed pressure tomorrow in a Com-mons debate for the rescue of the casualty unit at Edgware Hospital by Sir John Gorst and Hugh Dykes, the two MPs who caused a fuss over the threatened closure of the hospital in the sum-

Backbencher wins by-pass after threat before **Budget vote**

would be prepared to vote against the Government if something was not done about his constituency case, and he was furious when news of it leaked

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was engaged in heavy negotia-tions with the MPs and announced in the summer that there would be a 24hour casualty unit, there would be GP supervision instead of nurses, there would be maternity provision and provision of beds for the elderly.

But MPs reported that Mr Gorsi was engaged in a heated conversation with Mr Dorrell during a division on the

One ministerial source said: "He doesn't want to lose this hospital. He wants to a retain a full acute hospital. Whether he is still angry about it, and will cause trouble to the Government, Mr Gorst privately made it clear he we will have to see."

The junior health minister, John Horam, is due to answer the debate but last night the Government had no plans to improve its offer. Judging by the success of Mr Win-

terton, it can only be a matter of time. Labour campaigns spokesman, Bri-an Wilson, said the Government was now vulnerable to any backbencher who chooses to apply blackmail.

John Major's majority could be wiped out by the Barusley East by-elec-

tion next Thursday.

Tory MPs could be lining up with the shopping list of constituency de-

But the most pressing case is for the Ulster Unionists, on whose support Mr Major will have to depend to ensure the Government survives until a general election next May.

There are three big items on their shopping list: no surrender to the IRA in the peace talks in Ulster; urgent action on the electricity interconnector between Scotland and Northern Ireland, which has been delayed by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, after recommending it should go under ground in Scotland; and the lifting of the ban on beef exports from Northern Ireland, which Mr Forsyth also has been



Lone voice; A demonstrator at the Department of Trade and Industry in Westminster yesterday, highlighting the granting of export licences for arms for Indonesia on the 21st anniversary of its invasion of East Timor

Euro-budget hit by losses through fraud

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

The European Community's £47bn annual spending is becoming increasingly vulner-able to losses through fraud, an all-party group of MPs said yesterday.

In a report which will be welcomed by Eurosceptic MPs, funds paid to farmers through the Common Agriculture Policy, are inadequate because the procedures are too complex and unworkable.

The MPs found that CAP payments, which cost £32.5bn during the current year, are governed by more than 3,000 regulations, and the Court of Auditors, which oversees European Union expenditure, "had major difficulties in ensuring eligibility through inspections of final recipients. Not only [were the payments] difficult to audit effectively, but the scale of operations across the Community and the com-

result of irregularities from CAP payments increased from £77m in 1992 to £320m in 1994. The MPs call for "simplification and structural reform" of the

Payments under structural Stationery Office, £5.10.

funds - such as the social fund and the regional development fund - amount to £20bn per year and the Court of Auditors told MPs that around 5 per cent of the grant payments made to 31,000 separate projects con-tained "technical faults", averaging about 30 per cent of the

Another major source of the Public Accounts Committee fraud is the loss of VAT payable argues that existing measures to to the European Community, combat fraud, particularly from one of its major sources of income. The MPs say that VAT and customs duty on imports are payable only in the country of final destination but because of madequate information systems and the general complexities of goods in transit crossing several national borders, an estimated £542m is lost annually. The MPs are also bemused

by the fact that the precise amount of the UK's net contribution to EU funds of around £1bn is not known because different figures are given by the Treasury and the Court of Auditors. The court thinks that this is because of the use of different financial years and the nonplexity of the regulations made in clusion in the Treasury figures it particularly vulnerable to fraud and abuse." inclusion in the Treasury figures of amounts paid by the private sector. The MPs say that it Indeed, estimated losses as a should be possible to reconcile these differences and welcomes moves by the Treasury and the court to do so.

■ Committee of Public Accounts, The Audit of European Community Transactions, The

Discipline code for Labour MPs

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour MPs could be disci-plined for consistently criticis-One senior Labour MP replined for consistently criticis-

approved yesterday.
The code, which creates a new offence of bringing the party into disrepute, was accepted by 86 votes to 27 despite ers Party, which condemned protests from several leftwingers. It also asks members to attend Parliament regularly, to refrain from personal attacks on colleagues and to act "in harmony with" party policy. However, the party's leader-

ship accepted an amendment which said it would not be used to "to stifle democratic debate from the parliamentary party. on policy matters or weaken the spirit of tolerance and respect referred to in Clause IV of the Labour Party constitution."

the move was not meant to prevent free and open discussion. What it is about is showing

we are a serious, professional

day's Tories to understand that. They are a classic example of how a country should not be

ing their party leaders under a new code of conduct which was left-wing Tribune newspaper left-wing Tribune newspaper under the byline "Cassandra." And three MPs who recently put their names to a petition or-ganised by the Socialist Workany attempt to weaken Labour's links with the trade unions, were not disciplined.

If Labour decided that one of its MPs had stepped out of line under the code, which comes into force in January, a vote of all its members would be taken before they were suspended

A number of left-wingers were unhappy with the outcome last night. Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West, said he Last night Tony Blair, the had voted against the code. "It Labour leader, insisted that is wide open to subjective interpretation. I don't think it should have any place in a de-mocratic socialist party." he

we are a scrious, professional and disciplined organisation. Everyone understands that if you are serious about governing the country well you have to be professional and disciplined. "You only have to look at to-Ken Livingstone, MP for



After the blast: Travellers are warned to be vigilant as intelligence source links gas-canister attack to Islamic extremists.

1,000 extra police guard Paris targets

Paris was on high alert yesterday as anti-terrorist measures. familiar from last summer. came into force after the rushhour bomb explosion on Tuesday at Port Royal station. An additional 1,000 police and gendarmes were drafted in to pa-trol potential targets and 700 troops were placed at the city's

disposal.
Two people were killed in the explosion and nearly 100 more

The most overt security was at stations and tourist sites such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre precinct, where gendarmes and CRS riot police patrolled in pairs. Security announcements were made through the day at underground stations, where passengers were handed small blue and white cards headed "Vigilant, together".

The impression was of a more discreet, but also more discriminating, security presence than last summer, and of a French public quietly returning to well-rehearsed routines.

In such circumstances it seemed almost superfluous for a government spokesman to call for "calm and sang-froid". But ministers revelled in the opportunity to call for national solidarity with the government to combat terrorism and they had the gratifying spectacle of trade unions cancelling planned protests because of the attack. Outside Paris, security was

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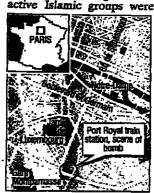
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increased in Bordeaux, where the Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, is mayor, and in Lyons, which was a target during last summer's bomb campaign. Sub-urban housing estates known to have large concentrations of first- and second-generation north African immigrants and active Islamic groups were



placed under special surveillance. There was additional security at airports and borders. ring questions in the National Assembly, after a minute's silence for the victims of the bomb, Mr Juppé said no one had so far admitted responsibility and no one line of inquiry was being preferred.

The French news agency AFP, however, quoted "informed sources" - likely to be the intelligence service - as saying that a warning had been out since early November that a bombing campaign could be

They cited an Islamic France.

Make someone

happy this Christmas

The Right Chemistry

a separate tip-off that a commando unit was about to enter France from Italy after training in the Middle East.

The type of bomb - a 13kg gas canister filled with explosive and 10cm nails which was said by experts to have caused as much damage as a grenade and the timing and location of the attack had immediately recalled last year's campaign by Algerian Islamic terrorists.

Despite these parallels, the foreign ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummelhardt, said that there was so far "nothing to link the attack with the situation in Algeria... we are still at the stage of hypotheses". Some observers connected the bomb with last weekend's referendum in Algeria which had supported a new constitution outlawing religious parties. Others noted, however, that

France's first big terrorist trial of recent years is due to open in Paris on Monday. The case concerns the bombing of a hotel in Marrakesh in Morocco in

Two French citizens of north African origin are in prison in Morocco after being convicted of the attack, but the inquiry also uncovered a recruiting network based in France.

The case provided the first evidence of Islamic fundamentalist recruitment on French housing estates - a pattern repeatedly uncovered during the investigation into last year's bombs in



Security ' trains near the Gare du Photograph: AFP

Chirac struggles to revive lost influence in Africa

Mary Dejevsky

It may have seemed that President Jacques Chirac, who flew out of Paris yesterday to reach Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso in time for the inaugural dinner of the Francophone African summit, was exchanging one trouble spot for another. From a capital braced for farther terrorist attacks, he was arriving at an assembly of leaders from more than 50 African countries, several of which, notably Zaire and the Central African Republic, face the prospect of to their home country. By this France was "no longer capable much worse disorder.

The summit was likely to be overshadowed, however, by a question that has been raised recently to France's great dis-

oleasure. Is France as the excolonial power still able to propose and dispose in its traditional zones of influence?

Two developments have laced the question on the agenda. The first was its failure, despite a concerted diplomatic effort and statements about the ever", to moster an infernational force to intervene in the Rwanda-Zaire border area. Half the crisis seemed to be solved when several hundred thousand Rwandan refugees walked back

week, the 10,000-strong force proposed had been reduced to plans for a food and medicine parachute drop in eastern Zaire. Even that may not happen. no easier for France to swallow: the public vaunting of its weakness by the United States. The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, had already infuriated France by challenging its "monopoly" on relations with some African countries. But the

knife was turned last week by the US ambassador to Zaire, who gave a briefing to local journalists that then appeared verbatim in a Kinshasa newspaper. The ambassador, Daniel Simpson, was quoted as saying that of imposing its will in Africa" and that it continued to support War is over and it is no long a matter of supporting a dictators

ern," he said. French officials extracted an apology, but the damage was done. In fact, the sentiments attributed to the ambassador have been voiced by French specialists on Africa.

To counter the notion that his country protects corrupt dictators, Mr Chirac will argue in Ouagadougou for "good gov-ernance" in Africa, representing a shift from the emphasis on patronage towards a British-style model of aid tied to economic efficiency and political be undermined, though, by the refuge accorded by France to President Mobutu of Zaire, who is convalescing on the Riv-

Stronger lira casts a cloud over sunny side of the Alps

Bolzano — "There are two sides to this coin," says Richard Seebacher, swivelling in his chair to admire the Rosengarten peak through the window

of the Cassa di Risparmio bank. "For Italian importers, a strong lira in the single currency should be good. But for exporters it is very alarming. We produce 11 per cent of Europe's apples here," he said, turning back to flick through his desk-top news monitor. "Prodi's Euro tax debated," says a headline.

In a warehouse across town, new machines are stamping EU-approved sell-by date stickers on packs of prize golden-delicious apples which will be trucked up the Brenner Pass, on through Germany, to the shelves of a Liverpool supermarket. Due to Rome's decision to bring the lira into the exchange-rate mechanism, the producers will get far less for their load than in previous vears.

Nervousness about the strengthening lira is evident throughout South Tyrol. At the parliament of the

provincial government, in Bolzano, deputies met last week in solemn mood. They were discussing whether they could raise new taxes to run their bountiful, quasi city-state, in the manner to which the citizens

The dash for the euro is bringing gloom to South Tyrol. Sarah Helm reports



"There are many people here who are not happy about trying to force Italy into the EMU first wave," said Mr Seebacher. "And

I don't believe we will make it." The conventional wisdom says that, given the chaos of its national politics, Italy has become wholeheartedly pro-European. As a founder member of the community, the government of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, believes

Italy has a right to membership of EMU from the start. In reality, Italy, like other countries, is confused about the sense of the headlong drive for the single currency. And once again, Europe's "citizens" here know their anxieties are not be-

Tyrol is untypical of Italy; the area was part of Austria-Hungary until the end of the First World War. The concerns here do, however, reflect many ordinary Italian misgivings about the euro, magnified by proximity to the

frontier. South Tyrol is in many

respects very pro-European, being in the prosperous north. The vine-draped mountains, and the constant aroma of fresh coffee normally heightens the feelgood factor here. Bolzano is on the sunny side of the Alps".

But the region's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, with 70 per cent of visitors coming from Germany. A downturn has already been noticed this year

as the lira has strengthened. The region's native German-speaking population has a strong historical interest in cementing ties with Austria and Bavaria, seeing European integration as a way to blur state boundaries. The South Tyrolese have won autonomy from

Rome, as well as large subsidies. However, precisely because South Tyrol has prospered under its autonomous government it resents what it sees as a "political" diktat from Rome

gle currency. Those driving the euro bandwagon in Bonn and Paris scorn countries who engage in "competitative devalu-ation". But in Bolzano the freedom to weaken the lira is seen as a valuable tool. It has meant a mini-boom for South Tyrol. Some here fear that anger over Mr Prodi's cuts, to prepare Italy for the euro, could upset the fragile local political balance between the dominant German speakers and the

minority Italian parties.

New economic hardship is likely to hit South Tyrol's less privileged ethnic Italians first, and extreme right Italian nationalist politicians here are exploiting popular discontent. "People hate the Euro-tax. They are angry that a reduction in employment and cuts in state social spending is the price we

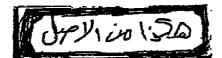
are having to pay for the euro," said Luigi Schiatti, of the post-Fascist Unitalia political party.
The South Tyrolese value their regional identity, and this makes them doubly nervous about Brussels-style European integration. There there is fear about the "harmonisation" of cultures that the introduction of the euro could bring. "Integration is a word we don't like very much," says Richard Seebacher.

ing heard in Brussels. South over belt-tightening for the sinwill lose their identity." **Swatch** Beach Rider Scuba £59.50 Christmas Decorations State Big £45.00 H.SAMUEI

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Elkans: Serb crisis overshadows Bosnia talks

Milosevic stays cool as protests jam Belgrade

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idents, opposition activists a tens of thousands of ordiry Serbian citizens marched ough a wintry Belgrade yesday in the face of mounting dence that President Slobon Milosevic has no intention conceding their demands for mocracy and civil rights.

For the 17th day running rge crowds jammed the city intre, waving pro-democracy inners and chanting support in an independent radio station hich Serbia's neo-Communist uthorities closed down last

At the front of the demontration was a group of young vomen carrying loaves of bread, symbol of friendship and goodwill in Serbia. "We must try and win this battle for our future, because otherwise our country faces years of darkness," said Gordana Tadic, a science stu-

As up to 50,000 people protested in the city, the authorities underlined their increasingly tough line by rejecting opposition demands for fresh local elections and by ruling out concessions in response to Westem pressure. A Belgrade court dismissed an opposition claim that the ruling Socialist Party had defrauded it of victory by cancelling the results of municipal elections in the capital last

The authorities first signalled their more repressive approach the United States and European last Sunday when the Speaker of the Serbian parliament, Dragan Tomic, went on state television to denounce the daily demonstrations as "destructive, violent and with all the characteristics of pro-Fascist groups and ideologies." Last Tuesday, the authorities shut down the radio station B-92, which in contrast to the state-controlled media, had carried extensive reports on the anti-Milosevic protests. Although Mr Milosevic has not ordered the use of force against the demonstrators, hundreds of extra police have been moved into Belgrade and other towns and a handful of op-

With the opposition seem-ingly running short of ideas on how to expand its protests into a decisive challenge to his rule, Mr Milosevic appears at the moment to hold the upper hand. However, some cracks have re-

position activists have been ar-

cently appeared in the monolith. Five Supreme Court judges broke ranks last Tuesday and criticised their colleagues for tamely approving the cancella-tion of the opposition's election victories. According to several reports in Serbia's independent media, the loyalty of the police may also be in doubt, a claim at least partly supported by the evident sympathy of some Bel-grade policemen to the street

countries of Mr Milosevic's policies appears to have made little or no impact. A Socialist Party spokesman. Ivica Dacic, rejected Western charges of elec-tion-rigging and said: "We are treating the question of the elections as an internal matter."

The opposition, grouped in a coalition known as Zajedno (Together), vowed yesterday to continue the protests at least until the new year. Yet except in the southern city of Nis, Zajedno has found it difficult to mobilise workers in its cause, a fact that indicates the relative success of the authorities in keeping students and educated people in Belgrade isolated from public opinion in the rest of Serbia.

Even the largest opposition demonstrations, which have attracted more than 100,000 people in Belgrade, have failed to trigger sympathy strikes or protests in factories. Despite this, the opposition is confi-dent that it has damaged Mr Milosevic's authority beyond repair. "He is bluffing and try-ing to scare the people, but we shall not be intimidated by his threats and insults," said Vuk Draskovic, an opposition leader.



Democracy call: A Belgrade student waving a copy of Demokratija at the Serbian presidency building during a peaceful rally in the city yesterday

international

significant shorts

HK riot police Bill Clinton's practise as pull-out looms but not out

quashing trouble in case rioting erupts as next year's handover to China approaches. Uncertainty over whether freedoms would be preserved have developed into frequent rallies recently but with little the White House at the end violence. Reuter - Hong Kong

guru is gown

George Stephanopoulos, erstwhile wunderkind of the Clinton kitchen cabinet and briefly touted as election adviser to Tony Blair, is to become a visiting professor at his alma mater. Columbia of this year. Rupert Cornwell - Washingto

New beginning at Sharpeville

President Nelson Mandela is to maugurate a new constitution, signing it on Tuesday, which is International Human Rights Day, at Sharpeville, where 69 black pro-democracy demonstrators in 1960. Reuter - Johannesburg

Zaire troops on rampage

Zairean troops looted and raped in the north-eastern city of Kisangani as rebels said they were advancing on the city from the south and cast, Reuter - Goma

President Havel on the mend

The Czech President, Vaclav Havel, who had half a lung with a cancerous tumour removed, is recuperating well. Reuter - Prague

Hospital faces unbearable bill

New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center is being sued for \$70m (£46m) by a couple who claim it threw out sperm samples, dashing their hopes of having more children. They said when they tried to retrieve the sperm in 1995 for in vitro fertilisation, employees said they had disposed of the samples, AP = Nore kork

Gypsies urge Swiss to pay up

A Gypsy leader niged the Swiss to compensate Romanies for gold stolen in the Second World War that may have found its way to Switzerland. In a letter to the Foreign Minister, Flavio Cotti, the head of the Swiss-based Romany Union, Jan Cibula, said banks may still hold gold Nazis stole from Gypsies and melted down to hide its origins. Reuter – Zurich

Bosnia's old enemies get round table

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

a cloud

he Alps

The London conference on security arrangements for Bosnia for the next two years got under way yesterday, amid news of unrest in Serbia and calls for a reappraisal of the relationship between Nato and Russia

It was the first time that representatives of the three former warring factions in Bosnia -Serbs, Croats and Muslims - had appeared under a common Bosnian banner at an interna-

tional conference. The 54-nation meeting, introduced by John Major, was overshadowed by the crisis in neighbouring Serbia. The British Government said events in Belgrade were "very much on our

Details of the new Bosnia Sta-bilisation Force – SFor – have already been announced, and senior Nato sources focused more on the way Nato might use the conference to strengthen its relations with the Russians, who provide troops for Bosnia. The ources said the arrangements vere still under investigation, but hat they were moving away om the 16-nation alliance makg up its mind and then telling Russians - a formula known "Sixteen plus one" - towards ging Russia a full role in poposing and vetoing action.
This formula is known tentatively

as Seventeen". If it is to make

m sense, Russia would be able

Nato decisions other than

to make proposals and even

those concerned with Chapter Five - the military core of the Nato charter.

This radical proposal flies in the face of Nato insistence that Russia should not veto its decisions, and if implemented would put the security of the entire Northern Hemisphere in the hands of a joint Nato-Russia forum - effectively duplicating the UN Security Council.

Nato's Secretary-General, Javier Solana, said the new Stabilisation Force for Bosnia would be roughly half the size of the former peace implementation force, I-For. He said: "We are planning for an 18-month mission, to be reviewed at six and 12 months, with a view to progressively reducing the forces presence to a deterrent posture and eventually withdrawal."

Nato's supreme commander. General George Joulwan, said the new operation, to begin on 20 December, would include 31,000 troops from 34 nations. Athens (AP) - A unique collection of 72 poems by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader indicted for genocide, was unveiled here yesterday. Titled Of Immemorable Years and Other Poems, the book has never been published outside the former Yugoslavia, publishers and authors said. They claimed proceeds would go towards hu-manitarian aid for Bosman Serb children. "The poems present a passionate, human Karadzic, not the Nero he is thought to be," said Greek author Christos

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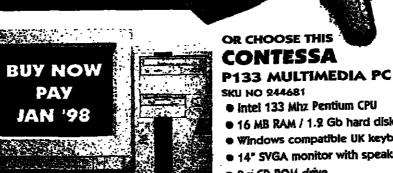
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Milan snaps at kerb crawlers

council plans to crack down on prostitution by photographing clients' cars and sending them to the owners' homes with traf-

Councillors yesterday voted for the plan by 16 votes to 10, with six abstentions, with most support coming from the hardright National Alliance (AN). whose leader in the council, Rio cardo De Corato, had forwarded the candid-camera

proposal. Mayor Marco Formentini said the city would now look for ways to implement the plan, although he noted that an earlier initiative involving the surveillance of cars whose owners sought out prostitutes had been blocked by a court. If this is the will of the city

Milan (Router) - Milan's city council of Milan, we will move to set it into motion," Mr Formentini said. "The only thing left is to study how it will be carried out."

One opponent, an independent councillor, Paolo Hutter, who is aligned with the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left, said Milan would be ridiculed if it went ahead with

the plan. "Everyone in Italy will laugh at us," Mr Hutter said. "I've already spoken to attorneys, and the distribution of photos would violate privacy, honour and reputation. Mr De Corato has suggested that traffic police be given the job of photographing cars whose owners stop to seek out prostitutes. The police union said its members did not want the job.



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Bonn's top spy defies critics

Imre Karacs

Number 008 did not look comfortable in his unaccustomed role as public servant. Standing before the German parliament to answer questions about a mission gone wrong. Bernd Schmidbauer, controller of secret services, concentrated on damage limitation.

No. Werner Mauss, the "private agent" arrested in Colombia last month for paying ransom to kidnappers, had not acted under orders. Yes, it was true he had met Mr Mauss six times in three months, and knew of his "humanitarian mission". Chancellor Helmut Kohl. in whose office Mr Schmidbauer codemane 008 – works, was aware of the Mauss escapade only in "general terms".

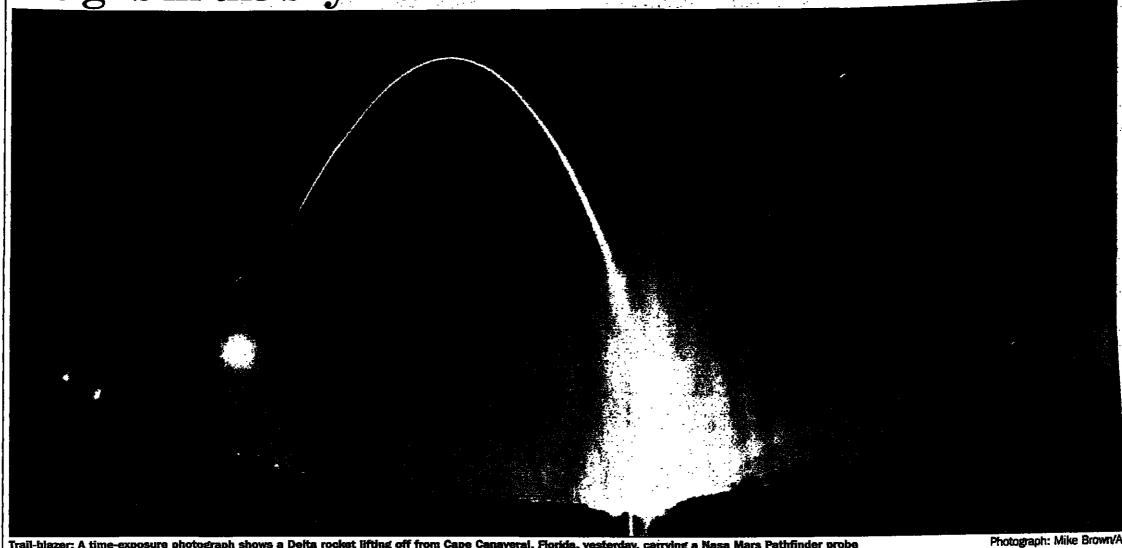
Apart from that, the gov-

ernment knew nothing of Mr Mauss's activities. It had merely issued two German passports to "Mr and Mrs Möllner", vhich were then handed over to Mr and Mrs Mauss, together with a letter from the consulate in Bogota certifying that the holders were on official business. The gun the agent was carrying as he was apprehended in Medellin on 17 November was apparently his own, as was the satellite phone and four forged passports.

Mr Mauss had been paid by German companies to negotiate the release of senior staff kidnapped in Colombia. On his last outing, he was about to fly the wife of a BASF executive out of the country, having just bought her freedom for a sum in the region of \$2m. Paying ransom is a crime in Colombia, as is travelling with false papers - the charges upon which he was indicted yesterday.

The affair has provoked op-position calls for Mr Schmidbauer's resignation. But the man who once ordered plutonium to be smuggled into Germany will not be dislodged by the capture of just one of his private army.

"I expect no gratitude," he told MPs, "but nor do I expect Signs in the sky mark another mission to the red planet



Trail-blazer: A time-exposure photograph shows a Delta rocket lifting off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday, carrying a Masa Mars Pathfinder probe

Chechens welcome their Robin Hood

Grozny - Shamil Basayev and his entourage of rifle-wielding fighters had no sooner clambered out of his dusty Nissan Patrol than he was quoting his version of Churchill with all the fluency of a man who had spent a lifetime on the stump.

Perhaps we could remember Churchill's three rules about Russia, said the Chechen commander, who now - to the horror of his enemies in Moscow - wants to be president of the self-proclaimed Caucasus republic. "First, don't believe the Russians. Secondly, never make friends with the Russians, and thirdly, never let a Russian into your cowshed."

Six months ago such thetoric

Phil Reeves meets the aspiring president, Moscow's bête noire

was only to be expected from Mr Basayev, 31, the most uncompromising of the Chechen separatist leaders, whose exploits in the war made him a latter-day Robin Hood for many of his countrymen but a terrorist in the eyes of Russia.

Diplomacy was never his style. His CV includes robbing banks, hijacking, storming a fortress city (Grozny) and - his most notorious exploit - rounding up 1,000 hostages in Budennovsk, Russia, last year. But the 21-month Chechen

war is over. The Russians say all their troops will have left by the end of next month. They leave behind a wrecked and bewildered territory that Mr Basayev seeks to lead not as a soldier but as a statesman, "I want to improve society," he says simply when asked why.

But his decision is also the political equivalent of a two-fingered salute to his enemies. No one is more aware than he that his candidacy will infuriate Moscow, rekindling anger over who used to support the former a peace deal many regard as a separatist leader Dzhokhar Du-

mands to secede. This indignation will be greater still when they contemplate his election manifesto: the priority of the man who was for so long Russia's most wanted terrorist will be to fight crime.

It is an issue that has begun to matter after a war that was itself a monstrous crime, claiming 100,000 lives. Fighters, still in imiform, race down the highway in BMWs without number plates, yet the euphoria brought by the spoils of success has given way to distrust and resentment. "They have all become so arrogant," said an academic

such idealists. Now it's everyone for himself. They say, fought for independence for two years. Now we want our salaries'. So they take them." The worst manifestation of this

is kidnappings, often by Chechens seeking to settle wartime scores by demanding ransoms of \$50,000 (£33,000) or more. Although some of those who worked with the previous Moscow-backed regime are in the coalition government, many are not; some are too frightened to leave their homes for fear of abduction. "Savagery," said Mr Basayev. "We have to fight these types of offences with all our might."
But what about his own mass

kidnapping in Budennovsk, in which more than 100 Russians died? His eyes smoulder. "It was my fate. It helped force a peace settlement. Look at what we have now, and ... then. An end to the genocide of the Chechen people. A troop pullout. A solution to our problems at the negotiating table."

He has a point. A year, even six months ago, few would have foreseen that he would have

centre of Grozny, in the courtyard, no less, of the building that used to house his sworn enemies, the Russian Federal Security Services.

Over the road stood the building occupied by the silksuited courtiers of Doku Zavgayev, the Russians' ousted puppet leader, now in Moscow. The Chechen seizure of Grozny left it a wreck, ornamented only by warnings about mines and a scrawled remark: "Born wolves [the Chechen national

dayev. "Before, they seemed ambitions to journalists in the emblem] cannot be made to bark like lapdogs."

Such rhetoric will become the campaign theme of the Mr Basayev, whose poster adorns many Chechen homes and is on display at Grozny's railway station. His rivals in next month's elections are older men who have shown willingness to co-operate with Russia: the leader of the coalition government, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, and the Prime Minister, Aslan Maskhadov. They played key roles in the talks that led to a deal to postpone a decision on Chechnya's status for five years, troop withdrawal and as yet unclear commitments over economic co-operation, notably oil.

But Mr Basayev remained mostly aloof, defiant even. The merest suggestion that Moscow would be unable to accept him as president produces a sneer. "Of course it will be hard for them to work with me. I won't let them rob Chechnya. I will make sure all agreements ... are, first and foremost, in the interests of Chechens." Fighting talk, the sort that will cause many to rally to his cause. The



Algiers - There were 36 monks and nuns at the Mass, most of them French, grey- or white-haired, listening beneath the stained-glass windows to their priest's reading from St Matthew, Chapter 25, verse 13, his words echoing through the little chapel in the Algiers sub-

urb of Hydra.
"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the cometh." No one moved on the hard wooden seats. Beside the altar, the bespectacled figure of Monseigneur Henri Teissier, Archbishop of Algiers, sat like a statue in his white and purple robes. In every sense of the word, the silence was deadly.

They had come here, these brave 36, to remember one of France's first religious martyrs in Algeria, Vicomte Charles de Foncauld, the French soldieran Islamist at Tamranrasset in 1916. His murder set an awful precedent for the monks and nuns who still refuse to leave the land they call home. Of the 118 foreigners murdered here, 19 were priests or sisters of the Christian church. The French government long ago told the 8,000 remaining French citizens in Algeria to leave, but you have to admire the courage of the 300 or so clerics - from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East as well as France - who re-

"I'm not afraid for me, but for our community," the Archbish-op says later - a 67-year-old French professor of Arabic who took Afgerian nationality after

"You can imagine what I feel every time I hear the phone ring late at night or when I've left my

ALGERIA

house." On 21 May, the phone rang to tell him that all seven monks kidnapped from the monastery of Tibhirine, high in the mountains outside Algiers, had been found decapitated. He speaks softly when he describes what was found afterwards on the road between Algiers and

"It is true that we found only their heads," he says. "Three of their heads were hanging from a tree near a petrol station. The other four heads were lying on the grass beneath. But it is mar-vellous that the families of those monks maintained their friendship for us and for all Algerians. They had visited the monastery. They had been able to accept the loss of their sons. They knew it was not all Algerians who did this thing.

A unit of the Islamic Armed Group, led by a man name.i Sayah Attia, had cut their throats; one of the kidnapped priests had recognised him when he opened the door of the monastery to the kidnappers two months earlier - from a newspaper photograph that identified Attia as the murderer of 12 Croats whose throats were December, 1995.

Could the Archbishop un-derstand what happened in the mind of the priests' killers at the moment they took up their knives? "They will kill a boy of two or an old man of 85. I think they are out of their consciences. They work under their understanding of Islamic law - "we have to kill the enemies of the

Lord" - and it is finished ... 2 ourselves are not in the same . uation as we were before this isis. When you begin celebrats the Eucharist, you cannot hi remembering that Jesus murdered by human violene and in the name of religion. los we have to understand the is in this society, that we are valking in the footsteps of Jesus W cannot look at the cross o Je sus as we have done before Be fore, it was an abstract thing.

Now it is a daily reality." The Archbishop insist that his church, having long ban doned the idea of converson, is now a church for Muslims. "We have become more and more the church of the Muslim peo-ple. The Algerians are Muslims but we are their church. We pray for them to try to help them.

The seven monks at Tib hirine opened their doors to all who needed help or medical aid. be they the poor of the mountains, even the GIA itself. "Islamists" are blamed for the deaths of most of the priests and nuns but no one is certain who killed the Bishop of Oran, Mgr Pierre Claverie, on 1 August this year, the day he met the French foreign minister; Hervé de

Mgr Teissier, who was Bishop of Oran for nine years, believes Claverie was targeted much carifer. The bomb went off in the street. He was caushed by the dear of the phone find his by the door of the chapel and his brains were found on the chapel floor. It was absurd, idiotic; unconscionable." Just for a mo-ment, there is a hint of anger in the Archbishop's voice. He was in France the night Claveria was killed, with the family of case of the dead monks of Tibhina. knowing neither the day northe

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Arafat's

men try to hush up jail death

Patrick Cockburn

Jericho

ed planet.

At midnight, Palestinian special police came to the house of Suhailah Fityani in Jericho and told her that her son was dead. A few hours before, Rashid Fityani, held without trial for nearly two years in the local prison, where he was repeatedly tortured, had been killed by a

guard during a scuffle.

At first the police story was that Fityani, 26, had tried to escape. Later, a police official said he was working outside his cell when he got into an argument, which turned into a fist fight, and finally a guard, whom he had beaten up, shot him dead. It did not seem very likely. Fityani was the second member of a group of six men from Jericho, one of the Palestinian autonomous areas, to die in the

> Both were ... beaten with cables. Their flesh was pinched with pliers.

were arrested on the same day Plast year, accused of collaborating with Israel.

His death confirms the reputation of the Palestinian Au-thority, led by Yasser Arafat, for ill-treating prisoners held by its 11 different police and securipeople have died as a result of fully confirming what Amnesty says about systematic torture," said Bassem Eid, of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitor-

ing Group, yesterday. Fityani differs from the other 2,000 Palestinians arrested and held without trial by the Palestinian Authority in that the last two years of his life can be fully documented. He was arrested early on 15 January 1995 by men from the Preventive Security Service, the largest Palestinian secret-police agency.

of deal

45, and four other men. The Preventive Security believed they were Israeli collaborators involved in the killing of an Is-lamic militant in a refugee camp outside Jericho. In testimony published by Amnesty Fityani told is family he and Jalaytah were tortured in the same room for three days.

Both were allegedly given electric shocks and beaten with cables. Their flesh was pinched with pliers. They were given nothing to eat or drink for three days, at the end of which Jalaytah died. His body was tak en to Jericho hospital: his family saw he was bruised but no autopsy report was published. Fityani was given half a cup of tea and a bowl of porridge a week after being arrested.

The police in Jericho did not show much confidence that their story of how Fityani died town's central prison after they would stand up to much investigation. Issam Jalaita, the guard who shot the prisoner, either in self-defence or as he tried to escape, according to of-ficials, had been arrested and was in jail. At the hospital there was an armed police guard pre-venting anybody seeing the Fityani's body and another outside the house of his mother. Suhailah. He refused to let anybody enter, citing "orders". though he refused to say from whom. A member of Preventive Security told journalists gathering outside the house that "the family does not want to talk

to you. Please leave".
At this point, a window in the green door behind the Preventive Security man flew open and Suhailah Fityani, a diminutive woman of about 60, in tradity forces. At least nine other tional Palestinian embroidered dress, shouted: "Why won't you

> forward Mrs Fityani. In a chastened voice she said: "I want you all to go away. Nothing you do can give me back my son. He died a supporter of Abu Amar



Free to wed: Nina Baehr (left) and Genora Dancel, who successfully sued the state of Hawaii for denying marriage licences to homosexual couples

Gay weddings land Hawaii in a storm

David Usborne New York

A ruling by a court in Hawaii that bars the state from denying marriage licences to homosexuals is promising a new tourist boom to the Pacific islands. while reigniting intense political debate across the United States over the civil rights of gays and

the definition of marriage.

In his long-awaited ruling delivered late on Tuesday, Circuit Judge Kevin Chang found the state of Hawaii was in vio-lation of sexual discrimination provisions in its own constitu-tion by witholding marriage li-

censes from leshians and gays.

Judge Chang ruled the state
had failed to demonstrate a

"compelling interest" as to why
gays ought not be allowed to marry. The state had attempted to argue that allowing gay marriage in Hawaii might harm the welfare of any children bomosexual couples tried to raise.

The decision is a milestone for supporters of gay marriage and for the three homosexual couples who first introduced the coapies who his introduced the case five years ago. One of the plaintiffs, Nina Baehr, told reporters: "People told us we would never get this far in the courts, but when we heart the news there were tears in my eyes. I thought I would cry if we

lost, but we cried for winning". For conservative critics it will provide a fresh rallying-cry for renewed efforts to block what they see as a conspiracy by gay activists to subsert marriage. Robert Knight of the Family Re-search Council called the ruling

an "outrage".

The holding of gay marriages in Hawaii may be delayed, how-ever, as the state considers appealing to the State Supreme Court. Such an appeal, which is highly likely, could take most of next year to complete.

It is doubtful that the Supreme Court, which gave a

provisional ruling in favour of gay marriage in the same case in 1993, would overturn Tuesday's ruling. In that case, it is probable that Hawaii would finally begin to issue marriage licences to gays and lesbians before the end of next year.

For Hawaii, it is likely to mean a flood of gays to the islands seeking to realise their

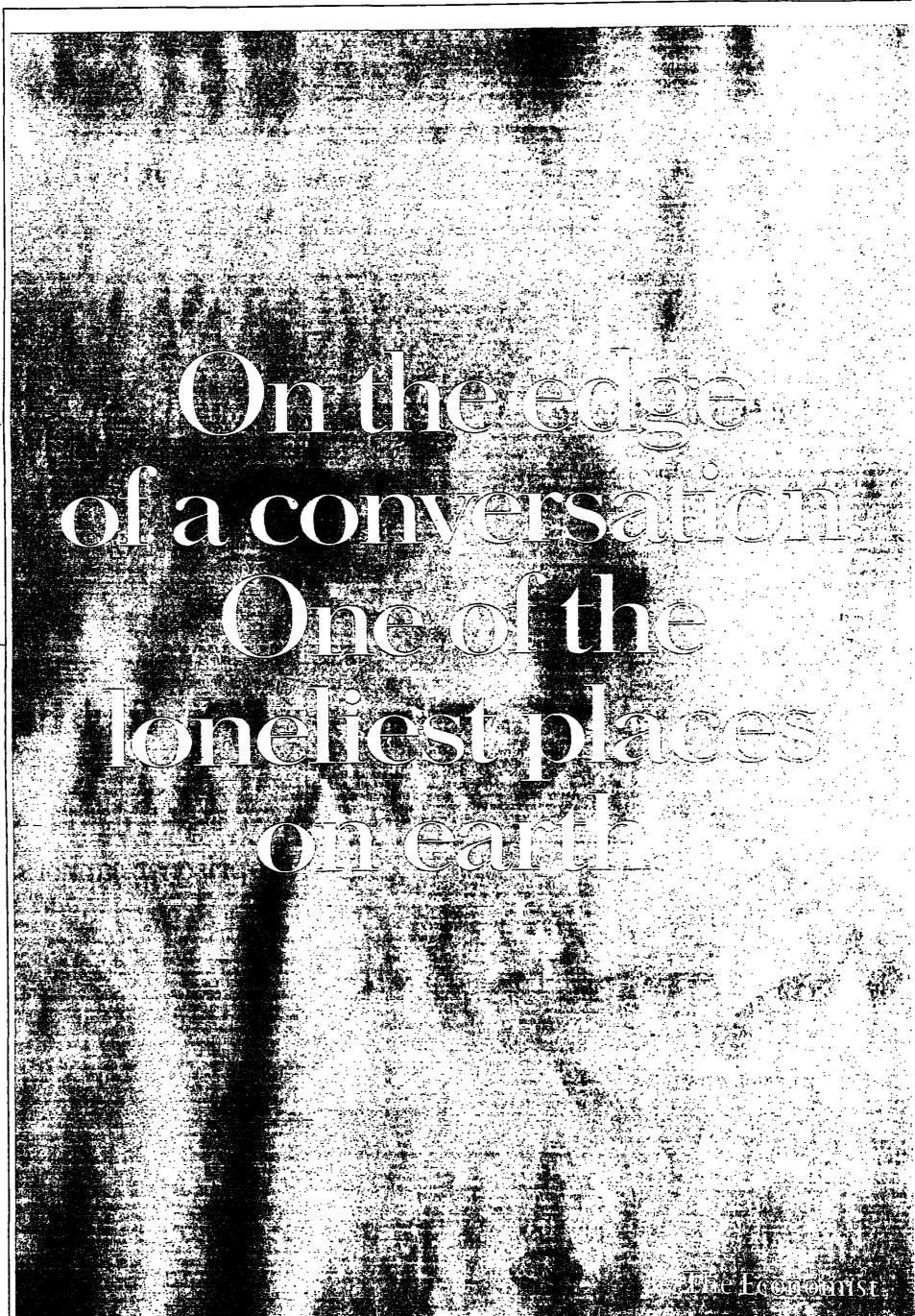
dreams of marriage. The political and legal battle that is already under way is fo-cused on the implications of the ruling for the rest of the Union. In theory, the "full faith and credit" provisions of the US Constitution obliges every state to recognise the laws of others.

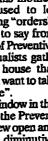
Last September, however, President Bill Clinton, with the election looming, signed the Defence of Marriage Act that invites states to refuse to recognise gay couples and serves to deny gays financial benefits extended to heterosexual married couples.

Detained with him was his brother-in-law, Salman Jalaytah, [Yasser Arafat]." Try the Internet free for three months Suddenly,



For your free three month trial, call free on 0500 55 88 00.





Sir Claude Hayes

Claude Hayes was a distin-guished civil servant whose un-til then impeccable career ended in 1974 in a blaze of adverse publicity as the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, of which he was Chairman, plunged towards a bankruptcy only averted by a massive injection of government funds.

Haves, the son of a Sussex village carpenter, confounded lo-cal belief in the 1920s by gaining scholarship after scholarship to advance him from village pri-mary via Ardingly College to a First at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, followed by a fellowship at the Sorbonne. He returned to Oxford in 1938 briefly as a tutor at New College, before being called up on the outbreak of the Second World War.

Commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps, he saw service in France with the British Expeditionary Force, and thereafter in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and North-West Europe: from 1942 to 1945 as Lieutenant-Colonel, with a

mention in dispatches.
On demobilisation he joined the Civil Service Commission, becoming Director of Examinations and Commissioner in 1949. He transferred to the Treasury in 1957, ultimately as Under-Secretary responsible for Overseas Expenditure, with particular reference to the emergence of major colonies to

By this time Hayes, always an avid traveller, had seen a great deal of the world. Army service apart, he had secured two travelling scholarships or fellowships pre-war, and in 1953-54 a Nuffield Foundation Fellowship had enabled him to tour widely throughout the Commonwealth. His appointment as financial adviser to R.A. Butler, on the break-up of the Central African Federation and Rhodesian independence, added yet further to the overseas background which from then on governed his career.

In 1964-65 the Wilson government established the Ministry of Overseas Development - an innovation viewed with some apprehension by the Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, for two reasons: first because each fore-

Because Hugh L'Etang was such

ual, it would be easy to under-

estimate his contribution to

1973 to 1982, a monthly journal

for General Practitioners. The

Practitioner was at the height of

its success, and for much of the

time was the only GP journal

doctors would subscribe to. For

a further eight years L'Etang was

consultant editor of the Physi-

cian and from 1986 to this

year editor of Travel Medicine

enter medicine by his father. But

he was a doctor who preferred

to observe rather than to prac-

tise, and he did it with a glint

in his eyes. He was the best med-

ical copy editor I have ever en-

countered - precise and totally

accurate. He wrote many ac-

claimed books. He was inter-

ested in the effect illness had on

world leaders and this resulted

in titles including The Patholo-

gy of Leadership (1969), Fit to Lead? (1980) and Ailing Lead-

ers in Power 1914-94 (1995).

L'Etang was encouraged to

International

a modest, understated individ-

own preserves and second, be-cause they had qualms about the formidable pairing of the new Minister and Permanent Sec-retary - Barbara Castle and the late Sir Andrew Cohen. They saw, in the Elephant and Castie, as they were known, a blend of political exuberance and intellectual impatience that might upset the established order. They deemed it essential that a strong, scrupulous, no-nonsense Principal Finance Officer be added to the duo, and in Hayes they had by background and character the ideal choice.

So it proved. The frenetic Cohen and laconic Hayes worked well together. New initiatives in the management of the aid programme, conceived at the top then anchored to reality by



Hayes and his staff, met with success. Because the ministry was new, so were many of the staff, particularly those serving overseas. Hayes drove them hard as he drove himself: he gave them his trust and absolute support, and expected - and got loyalty and trust in return.

Aid philosophy was not his forte. His interests focused on the practicabilities of aid - its use, effectiveness, and value to donor and recipient alike. He sought closer links with the private sector in the provision of goods and services - an issue of increasing importance as colony after colony moved to independence and hence freedom from direction. Throughout, as ever, Hayes travelled widely; he had to see for himself.

In 1968 the post of Chairman of the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations fell vacant. This saw some encroachment on its curious organisation was neither

Dr Hugh L'Etang

medical publishing. He was the Mauritius in the early 1900s to one of the company's drugs was

editor of the *Practitioner* from study medicine and stayed on to attempting to treat. A career in

become a family doctor in Lon-

don, where he met Frances

Maas, whose family was in-

L'Etang was educated at Hai-

leybury, and won a scholarship

to read Physiology at St John's

College, Oxford. He complet-

ed his training at St Barthol-

omew's Hospital, for whom he

also played rugby. During the Second World War he served

with the Royal Army Medical

Corps, and was twice men-

tioned in dispatches. After join-

ing his father in general practice,

he was a medical officer with

North Thames Gas Board, and

medical department at the phar-

maceutical company John Wyeth and Bros in 1958.

L'Etang was a voracious read-

volved in the tobacco business,

and they married in 1915.

many respects the quintessential writing of advertising copy. He

English gentleman, his roots would visit the company's library

lay outside Britain. His father, to research well-known artists

Joseph L'Etang, came from suffering from a condition that

then with British European Airways. He became head of the medical department at the pharmaceutical company John to buy it I will work for the

er, and might have followed a wife, Cecily Tinker, was a re-

a body corporate nor part of the Civil Service. Lawyers described it as "an emanation of the Crown". The Minister of Overseas Development appointed the Chairman but had no control over his activities. Nor, indeed, had anyone else. The Chairman was however, generally respon-sible to the Minister for the efficient running of this office.

The staff numbered some

1,600 with headquarters in London and offices abroad. They operated through seven direc-torates and 10 departments, reflecting the diversity of their work - basically the supply of goods and services to the colonies. With the advent of colonial independence, that base had to be broadened if the Crown Agents were to survive, and to that end the Finance Directorate had set out in 1967 to offer a wider range of financial services, including own-account activities embracing merchant banking operations, equity participations and property own-ership. In none of these fields was any member of the staff involved an expert.

Hayes was offered and accepted the chairmanship. He knew something of the Crown Agents' work, as liaison officer between them and the Ministry, and from his travels. He was aware of the burgeoning ownaccount activities but not of their extent. He sensed a need for the recruitment of a senior figure from the City to head the Directorate, citing his own lack of relevant knowledge and experience. However, he accepted assurances about the calibre of the director in situ - until it was far too late.

By the end of 1970, the Finance Directorate, living dan-gerously, was in effect operating as a high-risk bank, with over £400m wrapped up in loans and properties world-wide. Then me the crash. By 1974, with major loans worthless and the property market in tatters, the Crown Agents faced bankruptcy.

The Government stepped in, provided a rescue package of £175m and commissioned an inquiry into the causes of this huge saster. The resultant report, 200 pages long and two years in the making, reads today like some preview of the collapse of Barings' bank. For in a widely critical assessment of what went

medical publishing seemed at

tractive and in 1969 L'Etang

landed himself a job as assistant

editor of the Practitioner, be-

coming editor four years later.

enormous. When nearly 12

years ago I set up my own

under-capitalised medical pub-

lishing company, Mark Allen

Publishing, a management buy-

out from International Thom-

son Publishing, L'Etang, then

consultant editor of the Physi-

cian, one of the two medical

journals I acquired, told me he

would work for me for nothing.

proached me again: "Travel

publication as editor, free."

Hugh L'Etang's much-loved

Several months later he ap-

My own debt to L'Etang is

wrong, the commission identified rogue traders in the Fi-nance Directorate as central to the débacle, their lack of expertise and firm control contributory factors. The commission added a rider to the effect that what went wrong was a part only of the Crown Agents' activities, themselves only part of their total business, otherwise well con-ducted through a devoted and loyal staff. It was the actions of just a few individuals that had brought catastrophe for all.

But Hayes sought no excus-es. He publicly acknowledged his responsibility for all actions of the Crown Agents and re-fused to shift the blame for financial disaster. This was the year that saw his retirement.

Hayes the official was not always an easy colleague, always a combative opponent. Strong-willed, quick-thinking, a touch autocratic, he was never other than fair, straightforward and supportive of his staff. Herein. paradoxically, lay perhaps both his strength and his weakness; for once assured of a subordinate's loyalty and integrity he gave his trust, and expected like return. But such assurance is self-assessed, and in the case of the Finance Directorate, proved wholly misplaced. And the price of his error was calamitous.

Hayes in private was a gen-erous, unassuming, dryly hu-morous man, deeply devoted to his family, his home and his garden. The pride of his retiring years was his listed medieval hall home, Prinkham, in Kent, which he and his wife had meticulously restored and furnished throughout a decade. Their joint talents were great; so was this achievement.

William Bell

Claude James Hayes, civil servant: born West Hoathly, Sussex 23 March 1912; Deputy Director of Examinations, Civil Service Commission 1945-49, Director and Commissioner 1949-57, Secretary 1955-57; Assistant Secretary, HM Treasury 1957-64, Under-Secretary 1964-65; Principal Finance Officer, Ministry of Overseas Development 1965-68; Chairman, Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations 1968-74; CMG 1969, KCMG 1974; married 1940 Joan Fitt (died 1984; two sons, one daughter); died 20 November 1996.



L'Etang: glint in the eye

would accompany Hugh to meetings and help him report them. She was the cornerstone of his life.

Mark Allen

Hugh Joseph Charles James L'Etang, medical practitioner and writer: born 23 November 1917; Medical Adviser, North Thames Gas Board 1948-56, British Eu-ropean Airways 1956-58; Medical Adviser, John Wyeth 1958-69; Assistant and Deputy Editor, the Practitioner 1969-73, Editor 1973-82; Consultant Editor, the Physician 1983-91; married 1951 Cecily Tinker (died 1996; one son, one daughter); died London 25 November 1996. s in Power 1914-94 (1995). literary career. One of his respected doctor in her own right. Although UE tung was in sponsibilities at Wyeth was the They were inseparable. She



Jules Bastin

During a career lasting 35 years, the Belgian bass Jules Bastin acquired an enviable reputation both as a comic singer and as a basse chantante in the best French tradition.

At Covent Garden he apeared only in the former category, as Baron Ochs in Der Rosenkavalier and Balducci in Benvenuto Cellini, but his wide repertory included such roles as Sarastro in Die Zuuberflöte, Hagan in Reyer's Sigurd, which he sang for Radio 3 and also recorded, King Henry in Lohengrin and the Grand Inquisitor in Don Carlos, which he sang at the Paris Opéra, the Salzburg Festival, the Vienna State Opera, Brussels and Antwerp. However, bis enormous figure, though it could be imposing in tragedy, was used to even greater effect in comedy, where his superb diction, especially in French, was also a major benefit.

Jules Bastin was born in Pont-Ligneuville, near Verviers, and taught English and History at a grammar school in Brussels before beginning vocal studies with the tenor Frédéric Anspach, a noted teacher. He also attended the Opera Studio at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, where he made his stage début in 1960 as Caronte (Charon) in

Monteverdi's Orfeo. He appeared in Brussels, Liège, Charleroì and French provincial cities such as Rouen, singing Zuniga in Carmen, Brétigny in Manon and other minor roles. In 1972 he made his London début as the Papal Treasurer, Balducci, in Benvenuto Cellini at a Prom concert in the Albert Hall, and Balducci became one of his favourite roles. He sang it at Covent Garden in January 1976, at La Scala with the Royal Opera that March, as well as in many other cities, including Buenos

Aires, Lyons, Florence, and in

Court of Appeal (Lord Bingham

of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice,

Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice

Mummery) 20 November 1996

tiff, Jeanette Ann Olotu, against the decision of Barbara Dohmann QC, sitting as a

deputy High Court judge on 29

April 1996, to strike out the

plaintiff's claim against the

Home Office, and allowed an

appeal by the Crown Prosecu-

tion Service against the judge's

refusal to strike out a separate

In February 1994 the plain-

tiff was arrested and charged with criminal offences for

which, on 25 April 1994, she

was committed in custody by

the magistrates' court for trial

at the Crown Court. She was

held in custody until her release

on 3 November 1994, a period

She contended that the last

claim against it.

of 193 days.

1995, in one of his last appearances, at the Rome Opera. Meanwhile Bastin had made

his Covent Garden début in 1974 as Baron Ochs. This soon became another favourite role. which he recorded and sang in Rouen, Strasbourg, Amsterdam and Brussels. In 1975 he sang the Marquess of Calatrava in La forza del destino and the Hebrew Elder in Samson et Dalida at the Paris Opéra, where in 1979 he took part in the first performance of the complete three-act version of Lulu, singing the Theatre director and the Banker. The same year he appeared at Air-en-Provence, as Le Balli (the Magistrate) in Werther and Bartolo in Le nozze di Figaro. A new era began at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brus-

sels on 10 November 1981,

when Gérard Mortier took over the direction of the theatre. Bastin sang the Grand Inquisitor in the opening production Don Carlos, and was described as a "gigantic praying mantis". For the next 10 years he appeared there frequently, as Pandolfe in Massenet's Cendrillon, Publius in La clemenza di Tito. the Badger and the Parson in Janácek's Cunning Little Vixen, the Mayor in Jenufa, the Theatre Director and the Banker in Lulu and many other roles. He scored a tremendous hit in 1986 as Baron Zeta in The Merry Widow, staged at the Cirque Royale, which was then transported to Blossom Music Center in Ohio, where his Baron was judged-

"endearingly goofy".
His other comic roles inchuded Colonel Frank in Die Fledermaus, the Viceroy in La Perichole, both of which he sang in Strasbourg; Agamem-non in La Belle Hélène in 1983 at Geneva, where he "added to his already healthy girth with a Brussels 2 December 1996.

huge rubber ring" in the bathing scene in the third act. The same year he offered a notably drunken Varlaam in Boris Godunov at Avignon, and appeared as Pluto, Jupiter and Neptune in Rameau's Hippolyte et Aricie in Aix. The Astrologer Siroco in Chabrier's L'Etoile at the Opera Comique in 1984 provided him with another enjoyable role, which he repeated at the Edinburgh Festival the following year, "in his most splendidly rotund form". Bastin appeared several times in North America: in 1977 at Toronto he sang Sulpice

in Donizetti's La fille du régi-ment, while in Philadelphia be sang Le Bailli in Werther (1984), a "roguish" Varlaam (1987) and "a deftly humorous"
Gamekeeper in Dvorák's Rusalka (1988). Having already sung the King of Clubs in Love for Three Oranges at Geneva in 1984, he scored one of the greatest triumphs of his career as Cleoute, the giant Cook with a penchant for pretty rib-bons, at Aix in 1989. He also

recorded this role.

Jules Bastin continued singing into the 1990s, appearing as Mozart's Bartolo at Glyndebourne and as Geronte in Manon Lescaut at Paris-Bastille in 1991. On 31 December that year he sang Bartolo in Brussels at the last performance of the Mortier regime at the Théatre de la Monnaie. In 1993 he took part in the first performance of Debassy's unfinished Rodrigue et Climène at the newly rebuilt Lyons Opera House and, his career coming full circle, sang the role of his début, Caronte in Orfeo, at Salzburg.

Elizabeth Forbes

Jules Armand Bastin, opera singer: born Pont-Ligneuville, Belgium 18 March 1933; died

Barry Love to **Prothero**

Barry Prothero was a commit-ted fighter for gay liberation and an innovative curator, who helped set up and direct the Angel Row Gallery for Nottinghamshire County Council. After university in his native

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Australia, Prothero worked in art galleries, which spurred him towards further study at Sydney University, where he specialised in the history of art. A brilliant student, he was awarded a government scholarship to attend the Warburg Institute in Lon-don, and in 1977 spent six months in Italy practising the language and studying art at first hand before moving to London. Excited by London's cultur-

al and political activity, Prothero found the atmosphere of the Warburg too conservative, and transferred to the more liberal Courtauld Institute, though his request to write about David Hockney was turned down on the grounds that "there was nothing to say". Later he threw himself into gay politics, and was an active member of the Gay Activist Alliance, taking part in campaigns to "zap" W.H.
Smith's shops for their refusar to sell Gay News, and picketing British Home Stores for sacking

a gay worker, Tony Whitchead. In 1980 Prothero became the first gay rights officer at the National Council for Civil Liberties. Here he contributed to publications on employment rights and initiated campaigns to raise the issue of transsexuals, getting the case of April Ashley taken up by the European Court of Human Rights. He then moved briefly to the Lesbian and Gay_Centre, the

brainchild of the Greater London Council, before returning to his first love as visual arts of-ficer for Nottingham County Council and moving to Not-tingham. Determined that the city should have a gallery devoted to contemporary work, he persuaded the council to set up the elegant and spacious Angel Row Gallery in a prime city-centre site. He devised a wideranging programme which in cluded work by artists such as Alison Wilding and John Keane as well as exhibitions of fine crafts. A major success was to commission Helen Chadwick to cast her sculptural pieces Piss Flowers (1994) for a spectacular show which subsequently toured to the Serpentine Gallery in London. Prothero's confidence, knowledge and inter-personal skills calmed the anxieties of local counsellors about work which carried an element of sensationalism. Amone other thought-provoking exhibitions were installations by Susan Trangmar and Duncan Higgins which were visual reponses to coal mining, an in distry which had dominated the area for nearly 200 years.

Two years ago increasing illhealth led Prothero to take early retirement and he returned to London. Earlier this year his long-time partner, Tim Lunn. died, leaving him bereft. Despite failing health (he died of an Aidsrelated illness) he continued to pursue the interests which throughout his life had given him pleasure notably music, the visual arts and theatre.

Slight in stature, with chiselled features and curly black hair, Barry Prothero brought to his work not only Byronic good looks, but an intellectual rigour, a lively imagination and, most usefully, a wicked wit.

Emmanuel Cooper

Barry Graeme Prothero, curator: born Perth, Australia 28 May 1945; died London 26

Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

HUGHES: On 26 November, to Angela and Mark, a beautiful daugh-ter, Sophie Jane.

DEATHS

RICHTER-PENTNEY: Dr Hugh, hus-band of Annahel, father of Christine, died on 2 December 1996. Cremation at West Norwood Crematorium, Lon-don SE-27, on Tuesday 10 December at midday. All welcome afterwards. Enquiries to The Funeral Centre, 01S1-695 0999. No flowers, but donations to English National Opera Baylis Programme.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen and The Duke of Edinbur renembers in Manchester. The Du

Changing of the Guard The Household Carairy Mousted Registers mounts the Queen's Lafe Guard at Horse Guards,

Birthdays

Lady Balfour of Burleigh (Janet Bruce), editor, writer and consultant, 51; Mr José Carreras, operatic tenor, 49; Lord Chalfout, chairman, VSEL, 77; Miss Lucie Clayton, founder of the Lucie Clayton model and secretarial agency, 68; Sir William Down-ward, former Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, 84; Lord Dubs, former MP, 64; Miss Enid Mary Essame, former Headmistress, Queenswood School, 90; Mr Tom Graham MP, 52; Mr John Home Robertson MP, 48; The Earl of Longford, writer and former minis-ter, 91; Mr Terry Maher, founder and former chairman and chief executive, Pentos, 61; Mr Sheridan Morley, rentos, ot; Mr Shemoan Monsey, writer, biographer and broadcaster, 55; Lord Napier and Ettrick, private secretary to Princess Margaret. 66; Lord Nathan, former chairman, Roy-Society of Arts, 74; Mr Malcolm Russell, musician, 6tt. Mr Jeremy Sandford, writer, 62; Mr Harold Sebag-Monteliore, barrister, 72; Mr Baden Skitt, chief constable, Hert-fordshire, 55; Dame Mary Smieton, former senior civil sames? former senior civil servant, 94.

Anniversaries Births: Robert Harley, first Earl of Oxford, politician, 166; Christina Georgina Rossetti, poet, 1830; George Armstrong Custer, cavalry commander, 1839; Sir John Frederick Bridge, composer, 1844; Admiral John Rushworth Jellicoe, first Earl Jellicoe, commander of the Fleet at Jutland, 1859; Fritz Lang, film di-rector, 1890; Walter (Walt) Elias Disney, artist and film producer, 1901; Otto Preminger, film director, 1906. Deaths: Francis II, king of France, 1560; Sir Henry Worton, diplomat, poet and author, 1639; Giovanni Bat-

tista Morgagni, pathologist, 1771; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, 1791; Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie Dumas père, novelist, 1870; Sir Henry Tate, sugar refiner and philanthropist, 1899; Claude-Oscar Monet, painter, 1920; Nicholas Jan Kubelik, violinist, 1940; Joseph Erlanger, neuro-pariologist, 1965. Erlanger, neuro-physiologist, 1965; Princess Andrew of Greece, mother of the Duke of Edinburgh, 1969; Jimmy Nervo (James Holloway), comedian, 1975; Ethel Edith Man-nin, novelist and travel writer, 1984. On this day: thousands of lives were lost following a great earthquake in the Neapolitan area, 1456; James Christie, London anctioneer, held his first sale, 1766; the brig Mary Celeste was found abandoned in the Atlantic. 1872; Ethel Mary Charles became the first woman in Britain to qualify as an architect, 1892; under the 21st Amendment, prohibition was re-pealed in the United States, 1933; Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rommia after they refused to withdraw from the war against the Soviet Union, 1941; Britain's first motorway, a bypess around Preston, opened, 1958; the first British woman priest was ordained in New Jersey, United States, 1981; the United Kingdom withdray from membership of Unwithdrew from membership of Un-esco, 1985. Today is the Feast Day of St Birmus, St Christian, St Crispina.

St John Almond, St Justinian or lestin, St Nicetius of Trier, St Sabas and St Sigiramnus or Cyrani. Lectures

National Gallery. The Rev Donald Reeves, "Advent (i): Advent and Christmas", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Simon, "The Art of the Picture Frame:

artists and their picture frames", 1.10pm. thony North, "Substitutes for Silver"

Tate Gallery: Jennifer Gordon "Aftermath of War: reforming the figure", 1pm_ British Museum: George Hart, Temples of the Egyptian Western

Desert", 1.15pm. Royal Society of Literature, London W2: Sylvere Monod, "The Crack in the Ceiling: sight and vision in Dick-

Janet Edward A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Janet Edward will be held on Friday 6 December at 2.30pm in

Dinners The Speaker

Chichester Cathedral.

2.30pm

Miss Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, held a dinner yesterday evening in Speaker's House, London SWL, in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from Bolivia, led by Mr George Prestel, President of the Chamber of

Atlantic Council

Mr William D. Rogers, Senior Part-ner of Arnold and Porter and Vicener of Armoid and Porter and Vice-Chairman of Kissinger Associates Incorporated, spoke at a forum briefing of the Allamic Council of the United Kingdom held yesterday evening at Atlantic House, London SW1. His subject was "Changing Horses: the new Chinton team and foncion police" Mr. Alan Lee foreign policy". Mr Alan Lee

Ex-prisoner cannot sue prosecution service LAW REPORT

days between committal and arraignment prescribed by reg-An accused person who had ulation 5(3)(a) of the Prosecation of Offences (Custody
Time Limits) Regulations 1987,
as amended. She sued the

of the court could that period
of custody be brought to an
end.

Once the custody time limbeen remanded in custody pending trial had no right to sue either the Home Office or the Crown Prosecution Service if they were held in custody be-youd the statutory time limit. Home Office, as the department responsible for prisons. The Court of Appeal dis-missed an appeal by the plainclaiming damages for false

imprisonment. She also sued the CPS for damages for breach of its statutory duty, under regulation 6(1), to bring her before the court so that she might be admitted to bail. Both defendants applied under Order 18, rule 19 of the

Rules of the Supreme Court. for the claims to be struck out as disclosing no reasonable cause of action. Nicholas Blake QC and Tim Owen (Bobbetts Mackan, Bristol) for the plaintiff; Stephen Richards (Treasury Solicitor) for the defendants.

Lord Bingham CJ said that, following her committal under section 6 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, the plaintiff

excess of the time limit of 112 Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and regulation 5(2)(a) of the regulations). Only by order

> it had expired without extension (see section 22(3) of the 1985 Act) the Crown Court would have been obliged to order the plaintiff's release, but such release would have been on bail and could have been subject to

> In his Lordship's view, once the custody time limit had expired the plaintiff was unlawfully detained, and an order for her release could have been obtained either from the Crown Court or the Divisional Court. But it did not follow that in the absence of any such order the governor was guilty of falsely imprisoning the plaintiff and he was neither entitled nor bound to release her.

The issue in relation to the CPS was whether the statutory duty imposed by regulation which it wholly failed to per-She contended that the last was to be regarded as in the form, was a public law duty 81 days of this period of decustody of the Crown Court only, or could also give rise tention were unlawful, being in (see section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the to a private law right enforce-

sation. This depended on the whether Parliament, in passing the Act, or the Secretary of State, in making the regulations, intended them to confer such a right. Regard must be had to the object and scope of the provisions, the class (if any) intended to be protected by them, and the means of redress open to a member of such a class if the duty was not performed.

The object of the provisions was clearly to expedite prose-cutions and protect defendants remanded in custody from languishing there for excessive periods. But while the power conferred on the Secretary of State by section 22 was expressed in very broad terms, there was nothing to suggest that Parliament intended to give him power to create new private law rights of action.

If for any reason the CRS did not perform its duty, a defen-dant injured by that failure was doubtless expected to apply for release on ball at once, such application being assured of success. It cannot have been intended to confer a private law right of action for damages in such circumstances. -

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Love thy neighbour is the lesson for Number 10

erful allies in a Labour cabinet. This week has been an important lesson in the dynamics of modern British government. Kenneth Clarke won a crushing victory over the Prime Minister with the help of Michael Heseltine.

We have seen in the recent past how a Chancellor can overwhelm his nextdoor neighbour if the occupant of 10 Downing Street allows him to make alliances. Nigel Lawson did it to Margaret Thatcher in 1988, forcing her to declare that the pound would go into the European exchange rate mechanism "when the time is right". He and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, ambushed her before the European summit in Madrid. Then John Major himself did it to her, in 1990, when she finally agreed to join the ERM - against what she thought was her better judgement. That time, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, was the Chancellor's leverage partner.

It was Hugh Dalton, Labour's post-

war Chancellor, who observed that the more free the traffic through the con-hecting door between Nos 10 and 11, the happier the government. When relations are poor, the government is weak; conversely, when relations are close and harmonious, governments tend to be strong. Labour would probably not have been able to come through the 1976 IMF crisis if Jim Callaghan and know. But the ferret, instead of flushing

Gordon Brown gain any powtogether. Geoffrey Howe's 1981 budget, based on the solid foundation of like minds, was the turning point of Mrs Thatcher's first administration.

Mr Major knows this already, of course, because it was his former ally Norman Lamont who threatened the unity of the Government with his scepticism about the ERM - such that he "sang in the bath" when the pound was bounced out of it. But now the connecting door between Downing Street neighbours seems firmly closed. Mr Major is already on record. His "instincts" are against a single European currency. Mr Clarke, likewise, is on record. There could be benefits in joining the euro and it would be "senseless" to rule it out. So they have worked out a compromise, which is to leave the option open. But it gets harder and harder to fudge a question of such central importance as the date draws nearer to the election - followed less than a year later by the deadline for a decision.

This week, it seems Mr Major wanted to send a signal to the Conservative Party that there was no question of his joining the single currency in the first wave, while keeping the option open in pub-lic and thus keeping his Chancellor. Whether someone overdid the whispering in the ear of The Daily Telegraph, or whether it was simply a crass and counter-productive idea, we cannot



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out a rabbit, let loose a pair of wily old foxes, in the form of Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine, who were given the chance bluntly to reassert the compromise position. Mr Major had no choice but to be uncharacteristically emphatic in his answers to the Labour leader in the Commons on Tuesday; his government will not rule out the option of joining the single currency, not even in the election campaign. That last bit in italics is important; so important that it might just be top of Labour's list for sentences to quote back at Conservatives when the campaign gets properly underway.

For the Euro-sceptical mainstream, it dawned on them that Mr Major was not going to spring the "not in the next Par-liament" surprise which they believe is essential to winning the next election. For the rest, it dawned that the unity on the issue, which they thought had been skilfully and convincingly put together at Bournemouth last month, was not going to last.

marked a significant historical moment.

There now opens up the appalling prospect of the Tories imitating Labour in the 1983 election, with the party ampaign gets properly underway. leadership and the membership going to the silence on the Tory benches to the polls on rival programmes. The

manifesto will keep the option open, but as many as two-thirds of Tory candidates will tell their electors that they would never vote to "abolish the pound". Yesterday, as we report today. it emerged that this Euro-sceptical majority will include ministers who will have to be repudiated just as the election campaign gets under way.

The remarkable thing is that, unlike

Labour in 1983, either programme could be popular. The electorate is broadly hostile to the single currency, but it also strongly supports the argument for keeping the option open. Few voters, how-ever, are likely to look favourably on a party which tries to adopt both positions. And the problem for the Tories now is that they cannot help themselves.

Formally, the compromise position will now hold until the election. But with some ministers now describing their outlook as "suicidal", as a result of Tuesday's Prime Minister's Questions, discipline is dangerously close to breaking down. Westminster's corridors are abuzz with post-election Tory leadership talk again - the worst possible sign for the party's electoral optimism. Once again, so soon after an apparently successful party conference in October, we are back to speculating that the Tory party is sliding towards disaster, in the grip of an ideological conflict which it is inca-

pable of resolving while still in power. Of course, in 1983 the Tories won a 144-seat majority over a divided

Labour Party. Mr Blair's new Labour is not going to win a landslide of that size, is it? Most chilling of all for the Tories this week was the ICM poll, which put them on 31 per cent, behind Labour on 50 per cent. That is the polling company - the Tories' own, in fact - which is most cheerful about the Tories' chances. If that were the outcome of the election, Labour would probably win a majority of 190-odd seats. Silly - isn't it?

Old habits dine hard

A survey out today shows a surpris-lingly high proportion of the popu-lation never eats "ethnic" food. The flip-side of the finding is that a large number of people eat a great deal of rogan ghosh, spaghetti alle vongole or egg-fried rice. Eating habits may seem a trivial form of distinguishing people. But cultural divi-sions remain deep, separating the old from the young, city dwellers from those who live in the country - and those to whom fenugreek and coriander are essential from those who add only salt and pepper. The survey is a reminder that "internationalisation" has not touched large chunks of British society. at least in that significant part of our social anatomy - the stomach.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

We're back on the road to Wigan Pier

Sir: Paul Ashton suggests that malnutrition in Britain today is due more to fecklessness on the part of benefit claimants than to adequate levels of benefit (letters, 3 December). He goes on to describe a meal produced for less than £1.50 per head.

Such arguments are not new. George Orwell comments on a similar "disgusting public wrangle about the minimum weekly sum on which a human being could keep alive" in his 1937 essay The Road to

Income Support/Jobseeker's those quoted by Mr Ashton. A single person aged 18 to 24 receives £37.90 each week. An extra £10 is paid to those aged 25 or over.

This weekly allowance is intended to cover the cost of fuel, replacement clothing, furniture and household equipment, toiletries, cleaning materials. transport and leisure items as well as food. Additionally, those people living in private rented accommodation are likely to have to meet a significant shortfall between their rent and their Housing Benefit.

It is also worth noting that many benefit claimants live on large estates or without their own transport. This makes it difficult to use supermarkets - forcing people to use local shops, which often have only a limited range of fresh food

while charging higher prices.
Mr Ashton's final suggestion that the problem lies with the misallocation of resources on nonessentials such as tobacco, alcohol and lottery tickets is typical of those who would rather find a victim to blame than address a problem.

MIKE BOLTON

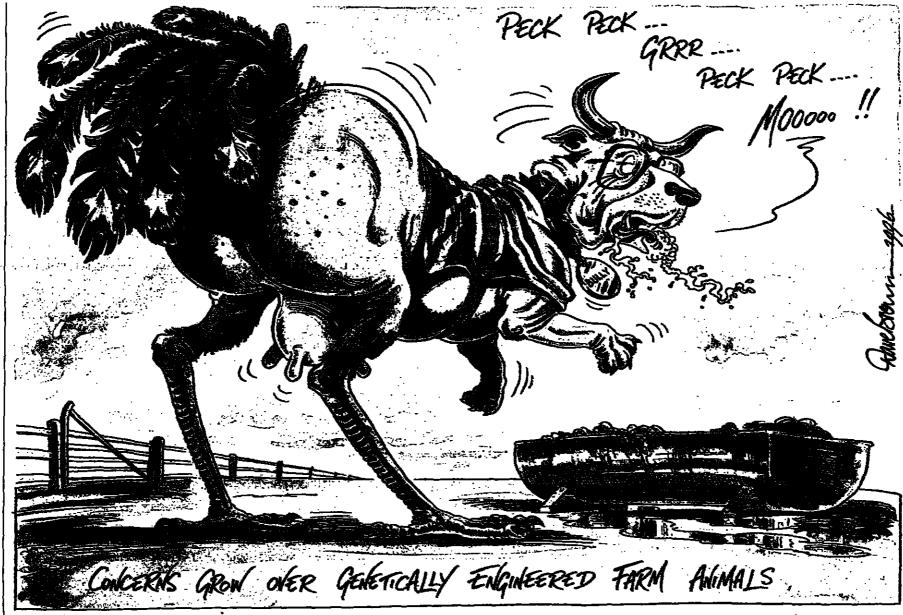
Sir: It might be possible for a family on benefit to cover food bills, but if a child needs new clothes, shoes or school uniform then someone will go hungry that week. And if a major household item such as the cooker or washing machine fails, there is no provision for replacement.

We belong to a Catholic welfare group and we can state that it is not possible to exist, long-term, on benefit. The charity we work for is contacted weekly by welfare professionals - health visitors and social workers - with requests to provide basic essentials such as clothes, furniture, bedding, fridges, cookers, washing machines and even money for food and heating bills. If the welfare professionals are pushed into reliance on the voluntary sector then there certainly must be huge holes in the welfare net. WINSTON WALLER JOANNA WALLER Whitstable, Kent

Sir: The Government is to reduce Housing Benefit for unemployed people, to encourage such people to find jobs and force them into sharing accommodation ("Budget Special", 27 November). The assumption seems to be that the unemployed are idle layabouts, and that there are lots of jobs just

waiting for them.

My son is 36. He overcame the considerable disability of deafness and obtained a good qualification in engineering. He worked for several years in computer-aided design with a firm in the Midlands, but was made redundant when the



firm had to reduce staff. He has written many hundreds of letters and applications, and has had dozens of interviews. But after four

years, he is still unemployed. This is the kind of person which this policy is going to penalise. The question is asked: "Why should the taxpayer pay for those who don't work? Who pays for unemployment?" The question should be: "Who pays for our much-vaunted increase in productivity?" In our industries we have increased productivity by the simple device of increasing the number of non-productive people

and it is they who are paying.
Our son has lived for about 10 vears in a small one-bedroom flat in Wolverhampton; this is one of his few forms of dignity and independence – is he going to have to give it up under the new policy?

The policy now being announced penalises those who are already suffering from their inability to contribute to the productivity of this country. This is a fundamentally. immoral proposition. Bishop JOHN D DAVIES Froncysyllte, North Wales The writer is former Bishop of Shrewsbury

Sir: Paul Ashton clearly believes that the virtuous restraint he exerts over his food budget should be an inspiration to all social security

Thank goodness I don't have to share the dinner table with him. Such mean-spiritedness in condemning the right of claimants to enjoy a few non-essential items must make him a pretty unappetising dinner companion. Pass the sick bag.

PAUL RICKARD Kingston, Surrey

is on the cards

Sir: There has been much analysis (27 November and following) on whether the Budget will help the Conservatives to win the general election - or on whether the Budget will make no difference and Labour might be still on course to

A case can be made that a hung Parliament is statistically the most likely outcome.

The outcome of the 1992 general election was, in terms of seats, as follows: Conservative 336, Labour 271, Others 44. As a result of subsequent boundary changes and an increase in the total number of seats from 651 to 659, and ignoring by-election results (and defections) since 1992, the parties appear to go into 1997 roughly as follows in notional terms: Conservative 340, Labour 275, Others 44; this equates to an overall Conservative majority

over all other parties of 21. Three working assumptions can realistically be made for the purposes of projecting the 1997 election result: i) There will be no net movement between "Others" and either of the two largest parties; ii) Labour will not lose any seats to the Conservatives in net terms; iii) Labour will not end up with an overall majority of more than 60. Such a majority would effectively involve Labour gaining 85 seats from the Conservatives. It should be noted that just to win an overall majority of 1, Labour needs to gain 55 seats from the

Hung parliament | Conservatives. Within the model devised above, the following range of results can be deduced: i) Labour wins 0 to 10 seats, Conservative overall majority; ii)
Labour wins 11 to 54 seats, hung
parliament; iii) Labour wins 55 to
85 seats; overall Labour majority of up to 60.

It can be seen that the "hung parliament" range, consisting of 11 to 54 seats gained by Labour. represents over half of the potential range of 0 to 85 seats gained by Labour. This does seem to suggest that a hung parliament is rather more likely than the financial markets appear currently M C FTT ZPATRICK Head of Economics

Sir. Your front page article of 2 December suggests that John
Major may go to the polls earlier
than 1 May, in part because the
Ulster Unionists are unhappy with the prospect of a general election on the same day as the local elections here.

Chantrey Vellacott

London WCI

This seems rather improbable; our local elections will take place on Wednesday 21 May, so it is rather unlikely that the Westminster elections will coincide with them.

Your correspondent correctly notes that our local elections use proportional representation, but goes on to suggest that this system favours Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party. In fact the DUP has got fewer

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Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

votes in recent local elections than in European elections or last May's Forum elections; and the operation of the Single Transferable Vote clearly favours "centre" parties such as the UUP, the SDLP and the Alliance Party, rather than parties on the extreme. Even in 1981, when the DUP got slightly more votes than the UUP in local elections, they did not win quite as many

NICHOLAS WHYTE Party Organises, Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Belfast

'Apartheid' on the West Bank

Sir: I was saddened to read Patrick Cockburn's report from the West Bank ("Netanyahu says Palestinian land is empty", 28 November). The report said: "Mr Netanyahu may not be in favour of ethnic cleans but his belief that the West Bank is 'empty' will worry Palestinians."

I have just returned from the West Bank where I met the widow of Ataliah Amira, the 36-year-old Palestinian referred to in the article who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers for protesting peacefully against the confiscation of his land.

The Palestinians in this community are more than just worried. There is also confusion and fear – why was an unarmed man shot during a non-violent protest at an illegal confiscation? There is a sense of betrayal - two months ago the Israeli government promised Ataliah they would not take his land but then they moved the fence surrounding the Israeli settlement to include the land. And there is profound shock - Atallah's death was entirely unprovoked and his pregnant widow is now responsible for their seven young children.

The West Bank is far from empty". The Palestinian communities which live there are being carved up and hemmed in by the Israeli programme of road and settlement building, and restricted from moving freely around. Many Palestinians talk of a state of apartheid, and the sorts of restrictions imposed on families like Atallah's do nothing to counter that view. ANGELA BURTON Christian Aid

Ode to Celsius

London SEI

Sir: When the Met Office abandoned Fahrenheit in the 1960s "Whatever happened to Pahrenheit?", 30 November), it was, I recall, New Scientist which produced a rhyme along the lines of "Thirty days hath September" to assist with the transition.

This related Celsius temperatures to day-to-day weather, rather than to the better known but perhaps less useful freezing and boiling points of water, as follows:

Five and ten and twenty-one. Winter, Spring and Summer sun. I have always found this a great facility in assimilating Celsius temperatures to discussion of the ROBERT COOK London W11

Insult to teenage vegetarians

Sir: Virginia Ironside (Dilemmas, 28 November) is obviously not very in tune with the young people of today if she can only offer such a cynical and ignorant view of our principles.

I could not help but take the article as a personal insult, being a fellow teenage vegetarian and relating as well as I do to Zoe's daughter. How can Miss Ironside pretend

to deduce this girl's deep psychological motives for becoming a vegetarian from a short note penned by her

Even if Miss Ironside were a qualified mind-reader and Zoe's laughter had changed her diet for nothing more than raging hormones, it is an outrage that this should be turned into a generalisation. I dearly hope that your readers do not begrudge their children the right to their beliefs because of these pompous

spoutings.
I will not grow out of my vegetarianism, because my decision to give up meat was a mature, rational choice. I passionately love animals and gave up many favourite foods and the chance to wear the latest fashions to stick by

I plead with Zoe not to take the article seriously. How can you treat your daughter on the advice of someone who says that a growing girl can live on bread and jam? KATTE COCKER

Stone of Wessex

Sir: On a hillside in the village of Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire, is the ancient stone on which the kings of Wessex were anointed and crowned ("Scots get the Scone, but Major wants the jam", 16 November). As the kings of Wessex (like the

Kings of Scotland later) eventually became the kings of England. could not this stone be shaped to fit the Confessor's throne in the ANTHONY EFTROTMAN Salisbury

Point-scoring

Sir. So the big wigs in Basildon Labour Party say they're going to expel Terry Marsh ("Terry Marsh comes out fighting for the Lib Dems", 30 November)? It says something about the Labour Party's complacency that it takes a former member to stand for another party before they realise he left a year ago. JUDITH FRYER Liberal Democrat Head of Press

House of Commons London SW1

Penny dreadful

Sir: The recently announced reduction in the basic rate of income tax has led to a proliferation in the use of the incongruity "one pence" by journalists and broadcasters, Whatever happened to the penny? No less objectionable is "one pee", more redolent of a single act of micturition (popularly known as "spending a penny") than of a unit of currency. Dr A J HEAD Leatherhead

Supermodels

lay bare their

against the

while the EU

ban the leghold

trap. But the

noisy animal

could do more

welfarists

harm than

good, argues

Richard D

North

fur trade,

decides on

whether to

feelings

Very sexy. mistake

"We'd rather go naked than wear fur." Every fur coat means animals died a painful death by

will soon be sighing for the chance to emulate Madonna's wearing of fur, as paraded before them in the movie Evita, which opens here after Christmas. Already, the European fur trade is enjoying a recovery. The economy is out of recession, and - perhaps as impor-tant - the world seems tired of being bullied by campaigners.

Many of the fur trade's best

customers are sassy young women celebrating their carning power and not easily intimidated. Yet next Monday EU environment ministers will decide whether or not finally to bring into force a ban on the leghold trap, a device which epitomises the fur trade.

If they do, after a year's delay, nearly everyone, from fering and to help people." the British Veterinary Association to the animal rights campaigners, and including John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will to an end an abuse of animals so gross that only the most hard-hearted could object.

For most animal campaigners, the leghold trap is (as the groups' most recent ad has it) a hideously cruel device", in which an animal will endure agonising pain, as it is caught in the vice-like grip of the trap's out trapping, which, on the

jaws". Actually, judging by its effect on a human hand (yes, I've tried it), the moment of impact of a modern leghold trap is not painful, and its grip is firm rather than vice-like. Still, while some welfarists will concede that a killing trap (one which dispatches quickly and with minimal suffering) could be described as humane, it is unlikely any would accept that a leghold trap might ever be.

But even the welfare issue is not what is commonly thought. Bob Carmichael is not obviously hard-hearted. He is the chief of game and fur management for the wildlife branch of the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources. A wildlife biologist, he is a gentle type, and says of the fur trade: "I feel very good about it. The net effect of buying a fur coat is to reduce animal suf-

Throughout the northern part of North America there is a tundra wilderness which shades into Arctic barrenness. It is home to fir and fur, the latbelieve they are helping to bring ter carried on hardy and beautiful animals.

relatively few. Many of them are wholly welfare-dependent, and quite a high proportion alcoholand drugs-dependent too.

A very few of these people go

fur sold in Europe is trapped The EU regulation under discussion this week is supposed to bring into force from next January a ban on the import of any fur from 13 mostly valuable species, and whether it is trapped or farmed. from countries which have not

banned the leghold trap. But there is a let-out clause, and in recent days it has been the subject of intense international negotiation. The proposed regulation says that coun-tries which can persuade the EU that they have invented and will use a "humane" trap could carry on with the leghold trap.

whole, they do rather less effi-Welfarists such as John ciently and vigorously than the Gummer and almost all the similar number of trappers campaigners believe that no among the even fewer white leghold trap, however modified, people who live in the region. could ever be called humane. and that the let-out clause can't

electrocution, drowning, or being gassed. DON'T WEAR FUR!

For more information please write: PETA P.Q. Box 42516 Washington, DC 20015 USA

be implemented due to fears of

diplomatic pressure from north-

em America on its implications

for free trade. In short, Euro-

pean environment minsisters

may satisfy their constituencies

that they argued for virtuous

policy, but add that nasty trade ministers scuppered it.

be angry at any compromise,

there is actually much to be said

for it. While a humane trap is

governments of Canada and, to

a lesser extent, the US have

invested large sums of money in

trying to improve the operation

of all traps, including the leghold. They seem to have

ost species of

animal - the

weasel, mink

and marten, for

instance - are

Although campaigners will

Sandy Beardy, a Swampy Cree from Cross Lake, Manibe invoked. toba, told me, and his dignity was compelling if partisan: "I went off from my village to fight for the Mother Country in the But it looked last week as though the EU might strike a deal in which welfarism and pragmatism would be rencon-Second World War. I was in an ciled. Mr Gummer has already anti-tank regiment and we said that provided he is per-suaded that there will ultimately fought from Normandy to Gerbe a ban on the leghold trap, and that it happens within a strict timetable, he can accept many. I think I earned the right to be heard when I ask for the freedom to use what God has some delay in its introduction.

-More to the point, a ban might put here. be agreed on Monday, but not

One often hears native people talk about their relationship with nature, their respect for and even veneration of their prey. What is sure is that it is the best - the more independent, the more feisty - of the aboriginal people who go out trapping, and there is real moral value in that. With average trapper earnings at about \$1,000 a year, its being a minority activity of small economic consequence makes it all the more poignant.

But the native trapper is not The continent's native peo-ples - Indian populations shad-ing into Inuit, or Eskimos - are the whole of the story. His rights have been much pro-moted by the US and Canadian governments, but do not to the degree one might suppose actu-ally drive official anxieties about the proposed ban. About half of Canada's

been quite successful. \$450m fur trade is in farmed fur, and only about 15 per cent of mostly and best trapped by

killing devices which break their victims' necks, or brain them. Improved versions of these traps have been made more widespread. The less fundamentalist of the welfarists accept they cause little suffering. Some traps drown their target - a five- or 10-minute process whose nastiness is obvious - but acceptable to many.

It's only for fox, coyote and wolf that the leghold trap is

because the animals are too big for it to be sure that a killing trap could be powerful enough to effect quick death.

At sufficient expense, Canada and the US could buy in most of the leghold traps and replace them with killing traps for use with all but the larger species most of the time. Only recent budget cuts stopped such a programme in Canada. But even if the policy was a suc-cess, it would still be necessary to leghold many and perhaps most of the animals now trapped that way.
The fur trade is not the main

reason for this. The leghold is used to hold animals which damage roads and drains at a cost of millions of dollars a year, and in these cases is used precisely because it seldom damages and hardly ever cripples its prey; in other words, it's as safe as anything could be near pets who might wander inadvertently into the trap.

In Louisiana, the state says it must use the leghold to trap the nutria - or coypu - which is wrecking coastal wetlands. It widely regarded as being oxy-moronic, the fur trade and the swampy forests, and in any says shooting would not work in in any form were the abominacase would rob the hunters of a useful income.

Of course, it is important to consider the degree of suffer-ing caused by legholds. Alex Sanderson, who trains trappers for the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources (another man who impresses with his ordinary gentleness), remarks:
"I had to use leghold traps when I was asked to move six foxes from a golf course. They were all fine after a day in a

This accords with respectable are coming along fast. Canadian research which suggest that stress levels in leghold traps are often quite low. Mr Sanderson says: "The important thing is that the animal should be able to move the trap so that it can get off the path and if possible hide. Then you find him lying down and relaxed. It's when you approach that he gets excited. This may explain, the ence would be that wild further than the gets of the EU, one difference would be that wild further than the gets of the EU.

easy to get pictures of distressed animals in traps.

I have met no one who admits to having seen the classic pro-testers' image: an animal which has chewed off its own leg. But knowledgeable people, admit-ting there is sometimes damage and pain, say the worst case must be very rare and would represent wasted time and money on the trapper's part: a wounded ani-mal means a damaged pelt.

But in any case, does causing some suffering to wild animals really matter? Plenty of furbearing animals die of crippling diseases; most of the young of some species die in their first year or so of hunger and cold; only a few have the luxury of dying of the same causes in a ripe old age.
"Wild animals don't get up in

the morning and expect to go through their day without stress," says Bob Carmichael. A few - even, in rare cases, tens of hours in a trap followed by a quick death may not be as bad a fate as nature had designed

But even if the leghold trap tion it is commonly supposed, the EU ban might well not achieve its desired effects.

It almost certainly would not much damage the fur trade in Europe, and might not much influence trapping in the northern countries. According to Frank Zilberkweit, chairman of the British Fur Trade Association, his members have plenty of farmed skins to offer their customers. More important, he points out that Europe is by no means the only market for wild fur - Asia and Russia

Even if fur-trapping countries decided to ban the leghold, they would continue with the killing traps which would be nearly as offensive to rich and noisy welfarists.

If the northern countries

Asia, where they are now often bought, instead of in Greece and Italy, the current main manufacturing areas. The number of animals suffering in legholds might eventually be

returned to present levels. But the amount of animal suffering might be increased. because the impetus for reform of trapping methods would be lost. According to Mr Zilberkweit. 'As long as the EU is involved my voice as a leading trader has some influence. I 🐠 say to the Americans and Canadians. You've got to improve your systems'. If we don't have that clout, the people with the loudest voice will be those with less concern." Leaving aside how much the trade has really campaigned on welfare issues. the point holds good for EU

tomers slip into one of London's smartest furriers in Conduit Street to fulfil one of the oldest sartorial dreams. They pass a small band of protesters shouting anti-fur slogans. Perhaps neither group is ethically attractive: the affluent thoughtlessly pursuing luxury and the protesters hysterically pursuing self-righteousness.

But beyond the risk to the rights of human minorities - in this case the rich and the nativ - there are serious doubts about whether the latest outburst of EU moralising would by itself do much for the animals either.

In fact, what is likely to happen is that international nego-tiations continue to apply pressure on the northern countries to improve trapping methods where they can and to defend obviously cruel methods where they must. Between defending freedom for trade and quicting welfarist clamour, the suffering that demand for fur inflicts might be substantially reduced. with talk of bans never far away, but their implementation regarded as the best option, traps defenders say, why it is so coats would be made up in never quite achieved.

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step. Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its

own plain language guide to making a will. It explains: • why everyone needs to make a will

how to go about it

and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for. Send or phone for our FREE guide to making a Will, today.

Please send me my FREE copy of your guide to Wills and Will-making. (Allow 28 days for delivery) Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _

Postcode. Guildford (01483) 426445



Send to: Sally Burrowes, Legacies Officer, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature), Freepost, Panda House. ing, Surrey, GL7 IBR. No scamo a needed.

Regal angle to a legal wrangle



Miles Kington

The most extraordinary bit of litigation going on at the moment is a case in the High Court, where the Tory Party is being sued by Mr and Mrs Norbert. They claim that they (the Norberts) have been given inadequate government for the last 13 years, that the Government should have managed things better, and that they (the Norberts) should be compen-

Here, for your enlightenment, is a recent extract from this startling case, in which

Mr Heseltine, among others, took the witness stand. Counsel: Your name is Michael Heseltine? Heseltine: It is.

Counsel: You have been one of the major participants at cabinet level in the present Government?

Heseltine: I have that honour. Counsel: Which honour? Heseltine: Of serving in Her Majesty's Government. Counsel: You call that an honour? You call it an honour to be one of this shifty, unprincipled, unqualified, shameless crew? Heseltine: Oh, come off it,

sonny. You can try any amount of abuse but it won't wash. I eat Today interviewers for breakfast, and they're a lot cleverer than you. Counsel: So, Mr Heseltine, you have a high opinion of Her Majesty's Government? Heseltine: We have brought this country through stormy times into calm seas. We have built the foundation on which prosperity can rise. We look forward to a time when our

Britain... Is Labour really saying that they don't want us to give £370, yes, £370, to every family in Britain? Judge: Mr Heseltine, I have given you due warning. I have warned you that if you treat this court as if you were trying your tricks on the much vaunted BBC chat show Today, you will be out of here. You have paid no attention to my warning. You are out of economic stewardship... here. Counsel: Just a minute, Mr Heseltine: But, my Lord... Heseltine. You have been in power for a decade and a Heseltine is ejected.

half. You have had 15-odd years in power. Yet prosperity is still just around the corner! ness, Mr William Wendover! Judge: Just a moment, just a moment. Do you mean Mr William Waldegrave? After 15 years you are still looking ahead to good times! Why are they not here now? Heseltine: Oh, but they are! Counsel: Oh, but they are Counsel: No, m'Lud. Mr William Wendover. He is a man I met in the pub last not. We have already heard night, m'Lud. Judge: Oh, this is ridiculous! how far behind other coun-

Are we going to go through the population of Britain one by one? Already this case has tries in the EC we are. We have heard how much in debt we are. We have heard many made legal history by lasting other statistics. Are you longer than any case since totally insensitive to them all? Heseltine: Look here, this those two took on that hamnew Budget leaves us all bet-ter off. It really does. It puts £370, yes, £370 into the burger place... Lawyer: [Interrupting from the public gallery] I must warn this court that I am here pocket of every family in

on behalf of McDonald's and that any such further remark will be followed by a writ! Judge: Get that man out of here! There is a struggle, and he is

ejected, leaving a faint but per-vasive smell of cooking oil ludge: Now, you were say-Counsel: At the start of the

trial, m'Lud, you were saying that it was important to know what the man on the Clapham omnibus was thinking. Well, as you are perhaps aware, there is no longer an

omnibus in Clapham. Judge: Is there not? Good Lord. Then how do people get out of Clapham? Counsel: I believe they buy a house in Dulwich or Chelsea. or move to the country.

Judge: I see. Counsel: But as a pub is the modern equivalent of the Clapham omnibus, I took the liberty of asking Mr Wendover what he thought of the present Government. Judge: And what did he say? Counsel: He said it was disbolical.

Judge: That's good enough for me. No need to call him. On to the next witness! Counsel: Call Her Majesty the Queen! Judge: Is that quite nexes-

Counsel: Of course. The Norherts are suing Her Majesty's Government, I think she should have a say. Judge: Well, you can try it. I doubt if she will appear, though, Still, good hick. Wake me if and when she arrives. Counsel: Call Her Maicsty Queen Elizabeth II! Queen: Here I am.

Now it's your call on Europe, Mr Blair

tion for Tony Blair, On Tuesthe enthusiastic spontaneity of an RAF Tornado pilot paraded on TV by his Iraqi captors, restated the policy as spelled out by Michael Heseltine: the Government will continue to leave open the issue of mone-

Now imagine this: in a few days' time. Blair announces that Labour will not take Britain into a single currency in the first wave - or perhaps even in the next Parliament. Kerpow. There is mayhem in the Tory party: Conservative Central Office foresees Labour's rating among an increasingly Euro-sceptic public breaking all known records. Worse, the grievance of the Euro-sceptics, already incandescent at Major for his refusely do a second seco refusal to do exactly that, is now compounded by the realisation that if he had taken their advice he would have avoided being

But the Prime Minister still faces a gruesome dilemma. If he decides, as electoral logic now dictates and most of his Cabinet are demanding, to rule out a single currency after all,

humilatingly outflanked by

Clarke (and perhaps Heseltine) will go, wound-ingly pointing out as they do, that Tony Blair is now running Major's European policy. And if he doesn't, his electoral strategy is holed below the waterline - and not just because the Tory party would be torn apart. Instead of tubthumping British nationalism against wishy washy Labour pro-Europeanism, the Tories are stuck with being the puny ditherers, against Labour, unflinching defenders of the pound.

This isn't just fiction. Indeed, it describes as precisely as possible the political earthquake that would be detonated by a Blair decision to rule out joining EMU at its outset. And there are other reasons why it is tempting. Gordon Brown wouldn't like it any more than Clarke. But Robin Cook, and Jack Straw would welcome it, as would, perhaps, John Prescott and Margaret Beckett. Nor does it conflict that much with the assessment of a number of central bankers, economic commentators and even Treasury officials who frequently cast rave doubt on the wisdom of probability early British EMU entry. You don't have to be a deep-dyed Euro-sceptic to harbour grave doubts about whether, in the real world, a Labour government would take Britain into a single currency during its first Parliament. It wouldn't even be such an unmanageable Uturn to rule it out. Did not Tony Blair, in his recent speech in Paris, dwell at some length on

the potential obstacles? So why on earth not do it? The diplomatic reason is that it would certainly set back Tony Blair's professed intention of making a fresh start in Europe. Even those national leaders sceptical about whether a Labour Britain would join, would squirm. And anyway, the opinion poll evidence isn't as persuasive as the sceptics suggest. It's true that most polls show



Donald Macintye

John Major may well have handed Labour's leader the trump card, but can he

play it?

bet that Clarke would, as Roy Jenkins did over EEC entry in 1972, defy a three-line whip in his own party to back Labour. And he might take a significant minority of Conservative MPs with him. Then Labour has to get it through a referendum in which - unlike in 1975 - the main parties will both maintain collective Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet responsibility. Suddenly, the Tory split which has never quite been a split becomes a reality. Suddenly, the possibility of a pro-European, centrist, grouping sympathetic to the principal aims of a Blair government becomes a reality. (Even more so if a referendum opts for a version of electoral reform which would sustain a Clarke-led grouping as a new party.) And suddenly a Blair-led admin-istration underpinned by alliances with Liberal Democrats and pro-European Tories starts to look like a very long-term prospect indeed. Fantasy? Perhaps. Impossible? Not quite.

You won't hear a single senior politician con-

EMU once the election is over.

EMU once the election is over.
Out would go a lot of
Labour's astonishing, but far
from baseless, claim to be in
sight of replacing the Tories as
the party of big industry. Finally,
Blair may yet just want to go in
during the next Parliament.
After all, if economic arguments

- monetary stability, fiscal dis-

cipline, lower transaction costs

- work at all, they work espe-cially for a Labour Party histor-

ically prone in government to

market pressure to maintain a credible counter-inflation policy.

and they are part of why Blair won't rule EMU out. But they

aren't, perhaps, as exciting as the short-term electoral one for

ruling it out. So Labour elec-

toral strategy junkies should consider a further point. Let's

suppose that a Blair-led gov-

eriment does after all decide to

go into EMU. First it has to get

it through Parliament. It's a safe

These may be persuasive;

template anything like this this side of the elec-Don. Moreover, long detore this, bil face internal dangers of his own. An anti-EMU Shadow Cabinet majority, perhaps led by Robin Cook, would probably be as easy to assemble as a Cabinet one, especially if Blair allowed policy on a single currency to drift through the next Parliament. But there is one big difference: modern Labour politicians divide over EMU on economic and not constitutional grounds. No one, Cook included. has said they object in principle. So it's not just that it's not in the national interest to rule it out now. He is also free to remind Euro-sceptic supporters till he's blue in the face that Labour would only join a single currency if Cabinet People and Parliament agreed. A triple-lock, which would be enough for John Major, too, if he had a remotely manageable party.

convincing majorities against EMU. But it's also, perhaps appear to have acquired a mysteriously, true that they puppy. Don't ask me how. show equally convincing majorities in favour of main-taining an open mind until the For years I've been ignoring the children's tearful demands for kittens, bunnies, harosters, goldfish, velociraptors etc, explaining to decision has to be taken. Equally disappointed would be those big businesses which may well start beating the drum for

them that the keeping of pets is a debased form of Victorian anthropomorphism and had no place in a post-Freudian society. They were impressed by this searching analysis. although the five-year-old stamped very hard on my foot shortly afterwards. Then, out of the blue, a friend rang and said, I've got this four-weekold labrador cross, would you ... ? And we said Yes, and that

was that.
A terrible mistake. As dogs go, it is a complete non-starter. Now eight weeks old therefore, in dog-years, an early teenager - she (it's a bitch) (believe me) cannot beg, sit up, roll over, fetch sticks, bite postmen or sniff out cocaine stashes. This dog does only three things. 1) It lies on the kitchen floor, as if sapped with a cosh. If you pick it up and put it down again, it subsides onto the floor completely flat, like a sandbag. 2) It bounces in a demented and uncontrollable fashion, landing its soggy paws on one's immaculate Commes Des Garcons strides and chasing the baby - the last

fortnight has been one

constant re-run of that old

Coppertone advert with the



puppy and the little girl's knickers. And 3) it eats shudderingly revolting things, including bits of the Financial Times, the Thompson Local Directory (Lambeth area) and spilt granules of dishwasher powder. And every so often,

one visits the site of her newspaper lavatory, armed with a redundant fish-slice and bottle of Dettox, to find that the pile of ordure which was there two minutes before, has

I went to the local library for guidance, but all I could find was Your First Dog by Lady Kitty Ritson (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1938). Thunderous-browed, i perused this helpful volume with a stiff single malt and an ounce of Navy shag, and read the words: "I like to think in this little book that I am really talking to you, whether you are a curty-headed little girl as I was or one with short, straight hair, or perhaps a boy who has to leave his dog when he goes back to school .. Abandoning this Mitfordesque bollocks, I turned to Dr Bruce Fogle, the TV vet, whose book Games Pets Play gives it to you

straight about the nutritious and enzyme-enriched marvellousness of doggy coprophagia. It also fills you in on the far frontiers of owner hysteria, like the "Mrs Jones" he once knew who could not bear to be parted from her Chihuahua, even while it was having its rotting teeth removed and rang the recovery room, saying, "Td her to know I haven't abandoned her ..

But the desire for order in

one's life is strong. So I rang the vet and asked how do we make her do this and stop her doing that? And now the animal has her own trainer. whose idea of rigorous canine discipline is to sit around flooring pints of Cap Colombie and saying "Use your right hand more" to the children. I mean – I, who has some need of a personal trainer, do not have a personal trainer; but the puppy, who

has neither a single social acquaintance nor a single interesting feature aport from being black and pretty, she has a personal trainer. Next thing you know, she'll be getting stress counselling for the trauma of forgetting where she hid her Sainsbury's chewbone. And now, I learn, there's such a thing as a Puppy Socialisation Course I'm supposed to take her on, to meet other puppies and acquire inter-dogular skills in a controlled environment. You'll end up," warns a friend, "writhing on the ground uttering feeble cries and trying to make your own dog notice you." Oh yeah? If I

do, you'll be the first to know.

hile on doggy matters, I note that Glenn Close, the gimlet-eyed actress, has annoyed the American National Centre for Lesbian Rights by portraying the nasty Cruella De Vil, in 101 Dalmatians, as a predatory dyke. An NCLR person called Kate Kendall deplores the stereotypical lesbian clichés in Ms Close's portraval, but goes further: "When Disney does portray a villain, there is the tendency to portray that heterosexual." And do you know, she's

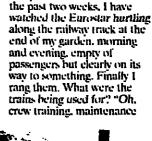
absolutely right? Scar, the villain in *The Lion King*, is played by Jeremy Irons with an effete and preening languor straight from Genet. Madame Medusa, the pawnshop kidnapper in The Rescuers, is a theatrical, childmolesting androgyne. Ursula, the sea-witch in The Little Mermaid, is a vaudevillian hag who twines corrupting tentacles around the virginal Ariel and resembles no one so much as Divine, the bloated

Next she'll be getting stress counselling for the trauma of forgetting where she hid her chew-bone

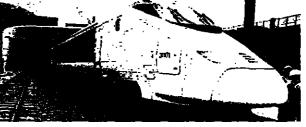
walsh drag queen in the movies of

John Waters. The bad guy in Pocalumtas is a similarly corpulent Brit, a pomaded and Pomeranian-clutching old sweetie. The Wicked Queen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is a de-sexed Lady Macbeth, Frollo, the ghastly cleric who consigns *The* Hunchback of Notre Dame to the bell-tower, may pretend to fancy Esmerelda, but is plainly as queer as Dick's hathand. I could go on, but the theory starts to run out of steam when it gets to Captain Hook

Tice to have the Eurostar back with us, is it not? Good to feel that passengers anxious to brave the Channel Tunnel. even after its small spot of bother two weeks ago, can



in my voice, it's because, for



tunnel, safe in the knowledge mai it somy me completely dissimilar southern tunnel that was damaged by the freighttrain fire and that obviously it could never happen again. I have every confidence in the Anglo-French safety authority's "satisfaction" with the new evacuation arrangements in the event of fire or flood, and note that, although their most recent "practice evacuation" took half an hour longer than the time recommended by themselves, it was deemed to be perfectly OK anyway. If you detect a note of concern

journeys through the northern work, that kind of thing," said an airy voice. "We've been a tew m reekina services, but without passengers." But look, I said. until the safety review is complete, aren't the crews of the trains in danger? "From what?" he asked. From whatever is being investigated by the Safety Authority, I said. "Look." he said. "as long as we're not carrying passengers, it's perfectly legal." And that's that. The attitude of the safety people throughout this inquiry seems to have been, "Oh, it'll do". I'll stick to Townsend Thoresen for the present,

A voice that launched 1,000 posters

formance at a delicate juncture: who can say which way it is going to play? The guy may go up and up and up, until he's a household name like Pavarotti, and people whose musical sights never rose far above Status Quo line up to buy his records; or Roberto Alagna could nose dive to disaster and obscurity.

Roberto Alagna, the notional "Fourth Tenor", mooted successor to Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti, has got a nice voice, though debate rages as to whether it's more like groomed for stardom. Pavarotti's or Domingo's or more like a much lighter French tenor. But besides the voice he's got a fantastic life story.

The story of Roberto Alagna is the stuff of Hollywood," an EMI publicist enthuses in a new film about the singer due to be shown on Channel 4 early in the commitments to spend time new year. "No record company executive could make it up."

If Alagna vanishes without trace in the next two or three years, it will be his romantic life story he has to blame for encouraging his record company to thrust him too fast and cagerly into the public eye.

Today, "storyline" is the key ingredient in the manufacture of celebrity. "If there is one thing that serves more than any other to involve audiences with celebrities," write the authors of High Visibility, an American manual to the art and science of celebrity manu-

facture, "it is the storyline." "The conscious design, manipulation and promotion of storylines in celebrities' lives up to the point of creating real-ities more dramatic than real life - constitutes the celebrity industry's major breakthrough in the 1970s and 1980s."

In Roberto Alagna's case, he gave it to them on a plate. The blond, blue-eyed, chubbycheeked, habitually grinning 33-year-old singer was born and raised in a grimy outer suburb of Paris, the eldest son of a Sicilian bricklayer.

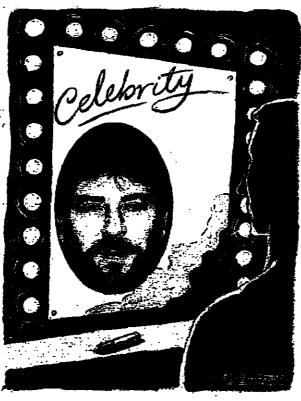
He had none of the conservatoire training of his peers on the stages of the world's opera houses; instead he was discovered by an obscure Cuban pianist who taught him all he knew. Thereupon, Alagna was hoiked out of the pizzerias where, his publicists say, he strummed and warbled, and was

So far so heart-warming but that's not the half of it. Roberto was a married man, proud father of a pretty daughter, Olanna. Then just as his singing career was taking off, his wife fell grievously ill-

Alagna cut back his singing with her; but the brain tumour finally took her life. Playing the lead in romantic operas like Romeo et Giuliette and La Bohème, it was common for Roberto to end the show with the young heroine dead in his arms. The aisles ran with tears.

But it gets better. Roberto now falls in love with the sultry young Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu. Angela divorces her husband, leaving him and their two children behind in Bucharest (a detail downplayed by the publicity departments), and in June of this year they marry! For EMI, Alagna is now a hot item, with Angela an irresistible new twist.

When we first became aware of Roberto's relationship with Angela," Aimée Gautreau of Angel EMI Records in New York says, "our reaction was, 'this is a great love story and we should use this'."



The blue-eyed son of a bricklayer is thrust onto the stage. His wife dies tragically, but he finds love again. It's the stuff of opera ... but is it the stuff of opera singers? By Peter Popham

Before Alagna's debut at the New York Met in April, the bus shelters of Manhattan were plastered with posters of the new sensation. "It was important to create a real image campaign, more like a pop star, to make him more accessible," Gautreau explains. "It was important to let people know he's not only a great tenor, he's a hunk ... Imaging iroaging imaging the poster has his very piercing blue eyes staring straight at the camera." If Alagna was in fact a pop singer, none of this "imaging

would raise an eyebrow. But the application of pop practice to classical music is still rela-

tively new.
"The classical music business is extremely competitive," says EMTs Roger Lewis. "It changed dramatically way back in 1990, with the explosion of the Three Tenors, Pavarotti on his own, Nigel Kennedy and Kiri Te Kanawa, and the world opened up to the fact that the potential sales of classical recordings was far greater than had previously been thought."

On their last appearance in Los Angeles, the Three Tenors and their maestro were paid an advance of \$11m. With sums like that, the packaging and selling of a classical music celebrity becomes a more ruthless enterprise than ever before.

The people likely to suffer from this are the singers themselves. The soprano Sally Bradshaw says, "the opera world is linered with dead bodies". She mentions one name, "a massive star 10 years ago, who has sunk without trace. She had a magnificent, really special voice, but now it's in ribbons. The record companies savagely exploit names and personalities, showing the singers into the hothouse - they produce a few blooms and they're finished."

EMI insist that they mean to take good care of their property. "What we are investing now, which is considerable, we will reap back in 30 years' time," says a spokesman. Look at Callas - we're still living off her. This is a voice we have to treat with a great deal of respect and a great deal of care."

Yet Alagna's hectic schedule of performance and recording belies such protestations. At his debut in the Met, his voice began to crack, and he had to be talked out of quitting in midshow. "The man's a nervous wreck," opined a disappointed member of the New York audience. "He tried the top B - it came out like a frog," said another. "He's supposed to be the Fourth Tenor - that wasn't the voice of the Fourth Tenor.

London audiences lost the opportunity to judge for themselves when he and Angela pulled out of three planned performances of La Bolième at Covent Garden in October, suffering from the effects of their heavy schedules.

Jonathan Miller, who has twice produced Alagan in La Bohème, is severely critical of the new star, "I'm afraid I had terrible trouble with him." he said earlier in the year. "I have had too many bad experiences with singers who have become suddenly successful ... These people have a sudden decompression of success and then

they get the spiritual bends." "A really well-grounded operatic voice needs at least a decade to come to fruition. says Sally Bradshaw. A juicy life story, on the other hand, can be devoured by the public in a matter of months. Celebrity

Good-bye battery



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Selko Kinetic at: http://www.selko-corp.co.jp

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

legal threat to domestic power free-for-all

Professor Stephen Littlechild. the electricity industry regulator. has been warned that his plans to open up the domestic market to full competition in 1998 are unlawful. The warning is contained in a confidential letter sent last month by lawyers acting for the 12 regional electricity companies (RECs) and the

two Scottish power producers. The letter, written by a partner

the proposed regulatory framework would prevent electricity suppliers from recovering unpaid bills or disconnecting customers outside their own franchise areas who refuse to pay.

The letter also claims that it would be unlawful to proceed even with the phased introduction of competition if the new system has not been fully completed, tested and implemented According to Herbert Smith.

the problems thrown up by the proposed changes in the licences that all electricity suppliers will require are such that entirely new primary legislation may be required.

The leaking of the letter comes just two days after Professor Littlechild turned down an appeal from the electricity industry for the liberalisation of the domestic market to be phased in over 18 months. Instead Professor Littlechild has decided that the phasing in

electricity customers will be entitled to shop around between

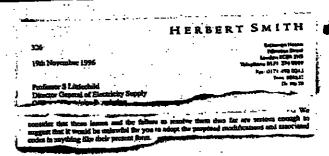
The industry is also lobbying to be allowed to pass on the full costs of preparing for 1998 to their customers, put at between £500m and £1bn. The bulk of the money is investment in the computer systems, software and training needed to allow sup-pliers to settle accounts through

period should last only six months so that by September 1998 all 23 million domestic customers outside their ensuing monopoly franchise areas.

Commenting on the "funda-mental legal issues" that have yet to be resolved, the letter says: "We consider that these issues and the failure to resolve them thus far are serious enough to suggest that it would wful for you to adopt the proposed modifications and associated codes in anything like their present form." If these problems remain unresolved it basis of the 1998 project". The RECs appear to be par-

ticularly concerned about how they would recover charges from customers who refused to pay or continued to receive electricity through their local supplier after a contract had expired with a "two-tier supplier" a supplier other than the

local electricity company
"From their experience in the supply market to date our clients consider that market



participants could suffer significant losses as a result of this problem which would, in turn, be passed on to paying cus-tomers in higher prices."

Last night a spokeswoman for Professor Littlechild confirmed he had received the letter and had written back offering a meeting to discuss the concerns raised.

Changing labour market: Shake-out continues at banks and utilities but good times roll in leisure industry

10,000 jobs to go in NatWest branches

fill Treanor Banking Correspondent

NatWest announced plans yesterday to cut at least 10,000 jobs in its high street banking operation in the next four to five years. This will leave it with just 27,000 high street staff by 2001.

The cuts are a result of the group's plans to build a "new retail bank". They confirm the fears of Bifu, the banking union, which warned of the scale of job losses earlier this year.

Bifu urged NatWest to go back to drawing board over the planned cuts. "By closing branches wholesale NatWest are pulling out of communities. Now they want to take employment away from communities too. We cannot endorse the creation of unemployment ghet-tos," said Alan Ainsworth, Bifu's chief negotiator at NatWest.

NatWest aims to have just 1,750 branches by 2001, which means the closure of 300 branches. It had 2,805 branches at the start of the decade.

The bank is also moving processing of cheques, now done in branches and at 150 specialist units around the country, to 60 locations. These will operate as telephone call centres and handle account management, cash

Chris Godsmark

and disposals.

Business Correspondent

ScottishPower is to almost haive

the size of the workforce at

Southern Water, the privatised

company it bought for £1.7bn

earlier this year, through a

combination of redundancies

through a voluntary redun-

main water and sewerage

business, while a further 1,340

employees will leave the

company after the sale of 14

non-core subsidiaries. The job

reductions will be completed by

dancy programme at Southern's

More than 700 jobs will go

Mr Ainsworth said East Anglia would have one centre of between 30 to 60 staff and South Wales one centre with around 100 staff. There are no plans for centres in England north of Bolton, while in the West and South-west of England, the centres will be in

Bristol and Plymouth. The London area will be hit. with most of the operations

work moving out to the M25. Tim Jones, managing director, retail banking services at NatWest, said most of the cuts would be from "non-customer facing jobs". "There will be opportunities for staff to move to new roles." he said.

es was slowing down compared

The Worthing-based com-

pany currently has 4,450 staff,

of which 2,218 work in its 20

The sell-offs will raise around

£70m. with an extra £30m

benefit from property disposals.

The cut-backs, which will cost

£21m mainly in redundancy

pay, will also generate annual

run Southern after the takeover,

gave a darming view of the com-

pany's previous board, all of

whom have since left. He said

too much had been spent on du-

plicating administrative func-

tions while customer services

Mike Kinski, brought in to

cost of £52m.

non-regulated businesses.

with the past five years, during which time the bank had shed 16 000 from its workforce with "virtually" no compulsory redundancies, Mr Jones said. Avoidance of compulsory job losses is the aim again this time, although he said that if

> staff would be warned six months in advance. "We welcomed the pledge in October of no compulsory redundancies and will continue to contribute to the departure

terms." Mr Ainsworth said. The bank declined to specify how much the job losses and investment would cost, but it is believed it will cost hundreds of The rate of change of job lossmillions of pounds.

The project will involve new

	·	· _ ·
	Jobs losses at the	banks
<u> </u>	Already gone	Still to go
arclays.	21,000 (since end 31)	1,000 this year. (Branch automation 9,000?)
loyds-TSB	24,000 (since 90)	1,400 in this year. (Lloyds-TSB merger 10,000?)
	9,000 (since 90) (10,000 cut in 80s when	3,000 copyrings
atwest BS	23,00 since 1990	Ongoing *

Total job losses in finance - 120,000 in six years

and Southern Water axes 2,000

include an estate agency chain,

a computing company and a

Though they accounted for more than half Southern's staff,

they generated just 14 per cent

of the group's sales and 7 per cent of its profits.

majority" of the staff involved

would keep their jobs when the

businesses were sold, and dis-

closed he had already received

several approaches from outside

Dilys Plant, the head of

external relations for Ofwat,

said Ian Byatt, the water regu-

Mr Kinski insisted the "vast

technology being installed at the 60 locations. This technology will include a facility which will take a micture of the front and the back of a cheque rather than involve a person inputting information from the cheque into

a computer system. they did become compulsory, Some of the 60 centres will just deal with this "voucher rocessing", while others will handle account management, dealing with post, sanctioning loans and debt recovery.

Phone calls to branches will be routed to centres in Bradford, Enfield, Hitchin, Leicester, Liverpool, North West Kent, Menai (North Wales), Plymouth, Solent, Theale and the West Midlands. These will provide a "one stop" service for telephone enquiries.
The financial services mar-

ketplace is becoming increasingly competitive and the way our customers want to do business is changing," Mr Jones said. Midland Bank, which has the First Direct specialist telephone banking service, also routes its customer calls to centralised service centres.

Nat West's announcement coincided with the release of the annual Banking Ombudsman report, which showed a 22 per cent rise in telephone enquiries

said: "The key issue will be

whether or not there is any de-

terioration in service. We have

want to see companies drive

down costs and adversely affect

ScottishPower yesterday re-

vealed a 31 per cent rise in half-

yearly pre-tax profits to £167m.

It raised its dividend payout by

The announcement was

preceded by a violent storm

which cut off 16,000 Scottish-

Power electricity customers. By

late last night 9,000 homes

were still waiting to be recon-

customer service."

19 per cent to 18.5p.



Cheers; Sir Ian Prosser said the jobs would be added in Bass's taverns and leisure divisions

Nigel Cope

Bass is to create 7,000 new jobs over the next year as part of an aggressive expansion of its brewing, pubs and leisure em-pire. The news follows the company's creation of 6,000 jobs last

However, Bass is expected to cut jobs through brewery closures if its proposed takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley receives clearance from the competition authorities. There was no news from the DTI vesterday, though some City analysts expect the deal to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Comsaid in the past we wouldn't mission. "We haven't heard

anything," said Bass's chair-man, Sir Ian Prosser. The new jobs will form part of a £670m capital expenditure programme planned by Bass this year. Some 5,500 of the jobs will be in the group's taverns business, where around 200 new sites will open.

The Harvester pub-restaurant chain, the Fork & Pitcher concept of rural inns and the 15strong All Bar One chain of modern city centre bars will all

but Bass takes on 7,000 in pubs boom

A new concept for next year

is the Dave & Busters enter-

tainment centres. These are

huge supermarket-sized halls

which include bar and catering

facilities based around pool ta-

bles, virtual reality systems and

New branches of O'Neill's, Bass's Irish themed pubs, are being opened at the rate of

more than one a week. Bass's leisure division will add 1,500 jobs during the year with more bowling alleys and 13

larger bingo clubs set to open. other amusement machines. The creation of 700 jobs was announced yesterday by two car manufacturers - Rover and Honda - and by Moy Park, a poultry processing company in Northern Ireland. Honda is taking on 250 staff to work on the production line at its Swindon factory, where it produces the Civic small car and larger Accord saloon. Honda aims to boost output at Swindon from 100,000 to 150,000 cars a year before 1999. Rover is hiring another 100 specialist engineers

at its new £25m design centre at Gaydon near Warwick. In Northern Ireland, Moy Park will take on 350 staff as part of a £31.5m investment programme that involves the building of a £11m factory in Dungannon, County Tyrone.

The first two centres will open in Bristol and Thurrock, Essex, early next summer.

Bass announced the jobs programme as it reported a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £671m in the year to 30 September, boosted by strong performances from the Holiday Inn hotel chain. Bass Thyerns and branded drinks. Hooper's Hooch, the market

leading alcoholic lemonade, Bass selling 320,000 barrels of the brew, compared with 40,000 last year. Sir Ian said there was no evidence to suggest the alcopop boom was a fad.

The Gala bingo subsidiary was hit by the lottery, with admissions down by 13 per cent. Profits were down at the Coral chain of betting shops due to a £4m hit caused by Frankie Dettori's record-breaking seven wins at Ascot earlier in the year. The meeting fell on the last Saturday of Bass's financial

Bass group sales were 12.5 per cent higher at £5.1bn and the dividend was increased by 10 per cent to 25.4p. Investment column, page 23 first Bus

0 run

Eastern

tail line

French government suspends Thomson sale

The businesses to be sold off advance about the job cuts. He

operation.

Michael Harrison

The French privatisation programme was thrown into utter chaos yesterday after the Chirac government suspended the controversial sale of the defence and electronics giant Thomson and electronics giant Thomson already merged its missiles busi-to a consortium including ness with Matra, a Lagardere British Aerospace.

The move was prompted by a wave of public protests that had greeted plans to sell Thomson's consumer electronics business, Thomson Multimedia (TMM), to a Korean conglomerate. Lagardere, which was cho-

sen as the preferred bidder for Thomson in October, had

Daewoo Electronics. That would have left it to share Thomson's defence business with BAe, which was prepared to provide financial support for the Lagardere bid and has

But the move to offload TMM to Daewoo prompted mass anger. Several thousand TMM workers marched last month protesting against the sale to a booming Asian competitor, fearful for their jobs and working conditions.

because of the terms of Daewoo Electronics' purchase of Thomson Multimedia"

investment had been neglected. lator, had been warned in

of buyer for several weeks.

The suspension of the sale

yesterday, the French Finance a month after the privatisation as the most likely winner, may Ministry said its Privatisation Commission "declared itself also put off. incapable of giving a favourable The official explanation givopinion to the Lagardere offer,

The move left industrialists, bankers and political observers stupefied, particularly as the French prime minister, Alain Juppe, had defended its choice

comes just days after Mr Juppe's right-wing government gave in to the demands of striking lorry drivers and less than

of the French bank, CIC was

en at the time was that the bids had not been high enough. But the real reason is thought to have been that there was no acceptable offer by a French bidder, meaning that CIC might have had to be split up and anctioned off to foreign buyers. The French industry minister,

Franck Borotra, said the pri-vatisation of Thomson remained essential for the company. But the decision to suspend the process means that Alcatel, which had been tipped

now re-enter the fray.

Alcatel, which had pledged to keep Thomson intact, said it "took note" of the decision. Lagardere said it remained interested in taking over the company. If its bid succeeds, Thomson's missiles and dynamics business, which has sales of £300m-£400m, will be incorporated into the £1bn joint venture formed by Matra and

. Meanwhile there was better news for BAe in the shape of confirmation that it is part of a consortium which has bought the German defence systems

BAe is paying £104m for a 49 per cent stake in the business. which will give it access to the

German naval market.
The deal will come as a small consolation after BAe lost out to GEC in the battle to take over VSEL, which would have given it a naval systems integration capacity.

This allows us to extend and enhance our expertise and builds on our systems integration expertise and customer base," said a spokesman. The other members of the consortium are the German groups Rheimetall and Badenwerk.

Williams sells off £360m DIY brands

Williams Holdings, the indus-trial conglomerate chaired by Sir Nigel Rudd, yesterday cleared the decks for a £500m spending spree after announc-ing the £360m sale of some of Britam's best-known DIY and building brands. A management group led by Mike Davies, currently head of Williams building and security products division, is investing "well over £1m" in a buy-out of a package of 15 companies including household names like Rawlping, the company which invented the eponymous wall plug, to Amdega, builder of Britain's first Victorian conservatory, and including Swish curtain tracks and Smallbone of Devizes, maker of the up-market

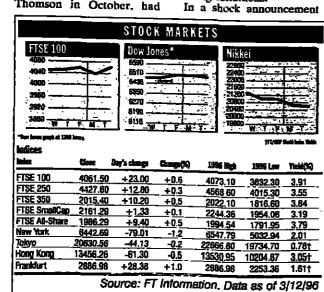
The intention is that the new company, to be called Newmond will float in due course. following in the footsteps of earlier Williams disposals including Pendragon, the motor dealer, Cortworth, an engineering group, and the elec-tronics businesses sold earlier this year, which intends to float in due course. As with earlier disposals, Williams is retaining an interest in Newmond through a 26 per cent stake.

The deal, which will throw up

a £90m profit for Williams and dilute profits by £8m in a full year, comes after two years of underperformance by the group's shares as conglomerates have fallen out of favour with the market. Sir Nigel denied the group was attempting to lose its conglomerate tag, but the shares bounced 5p to 344.5p yesterday as analysts welcomed the deal as giving more focus to the group. Williams said the businesses being sold, although mostly

market leaders in the UK, did not sit well in the context of its plan to develop global operations in the three areas of fire protection, security and home improvement products. It will wipe out borrowings and leave the acquisitive group with net cash of £40m.





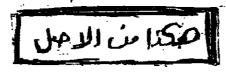
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Gold \$	367.00	-3.85	386.30		8.9+2.3pc		Jan 27
Gold £	222.15	+2.02	251.91		— 6.00рс		——————————————————————————————————————

CURRENCIES







There's some life left in the old NatWest yet

But for lethargy and the fact that the free market never works as perfectly as it should, it would be possible to write with ing much cheaper lines of service, you market position. some authority right now that the main high street banks have essentially had it, that in a fast-changing world these dinosaurs of retail and corporate financial services are going to die out (a bit like discount houses of which more later), becoming little more than fossils embedded in the rocks of history.

As it is, most of them look to be evolving

sufficiently swiftly (though Lord knows, progress is slow enough) to ensure passage into the next stage of the Darwinian tree. Yes-terday's radical set of announcements from NatWest has clearly demonstrated that there's life and determination left in those

What NatWest is doing mirrors what is happening elsewhere in high street banking. With varying degrees of speed, all the main banks are shedding staff and closing branches like topsy. For most of us, the branch persons is some largest or destination. branch network is now a largely redundant infrastructure.

Telephone banking, supermarket banking, and further down the line, internet banking, offer potentially dramatic advances both in terms of customer service and its cost. With the clearers still largely stuck with the cost structure of a bygone age (nationwide branch networks together with supporting infrastructures), banking, in theory, is ripe for the taking by new entrants.

would expect far more competition from new entrants than is actually proving to be the case. That there is not is partly down to the fact that banking is still essentially a highly regulated oligopoly, and partly because even in today's much more savey and consumerist world, it remains difficult to dislodge an established banking customer. Changing bank just seems to take more effort than its worth.

Furthermore, the established banks are proving relatively effective in offering the new forms of banking, even if this is not yet reflected in what they charge for it. In other words, the established players are proving quite adept at preserving their supremacy in the new age. That they continue to hold sway depends very much on the speed with which they can reduce cost. This is not without its dangers. as the Banking Ombudsman's report yesterday demonstrated. One of the most common complaints in a growing body of them was about branch closures and

not enough people.

The trick, then, is to adapt fast enough to deter new competition, but slowly enough to manage adequately the retreat in traditional banking methods and infrastructure. On both these fronts, NatWest and others seem for the moment to be doing as well as

Those strange little organisations called discount houses have been given so much warning of their demise by the Bank of England that even the most sleepy has managed to diversify away from their core money market businesses. Indeed, the odd-est thing is how long the motherly Old Lady has cosseted and cooed over this tiny band of miniature banks, just about the last places in the City to offer port after lunch. The justification was that they acted as a useful buffer in the money markets against the

power of the clearing banks.

If the Bank of England had been obliged to have regular eveball to eyeball confrontations with a bullying NatWest every time it wanted to manipulate short term interest rates, it might not have come out of the experience very well. Taking a tough line with Union, Gerard & National or Cater Allen is like picking on the school weakling.

The Bank's ingrained habit until now has been to maintain a tightly controlled register of the people it is prepared to deal with. whether it be in bonds or bills.

Now caution is being thrown to the winds, and anyone can join the party, provided they have the technical expertise, trade repos regor the taking by new entrants.

Can reasonably be expected. Though plainly ularly and are approved by regulators. They have a subject the fat profit margins presently carnt by the must also act as the Bank's eyes and ears.

agreeing explicitly to feed the Old Lady's hunger for useful snippets of information about the markets.

From next year, as many as 30 or 40 banks, building societies and securities houses are likely to be trading with the Bank in the gilts repos market every day, sidelining the dis-count market in the interest rate setting process (though the discount houses will continue in business, shorn of their monopoly access to the Bank's dealers).

By making gilts repos - a form of trade-able debt secured on government bonds - the primary instrument of monetary policy (setting interest rates to you and me), the Bank has moved a long way towards the money market methods expected to be adopted for controlling Euro interest rates.

Eurosceptics will see this as a ghastly plot.

But in fact it is a sensible move away from an eccentric money market system nobody else uses towards a new trading expertise that will be useful even if we do not join the

Open up Southern Water's last annual report, published this year just as directors were recommending Scottish Power's
£1.7on takeover bid, and the phrase "creating value for shareholders" leaps off the page.
Six months later the claim has a distinctly
hollow ring, given that Scottish Power has
managed to father savings of £50m a
managed the markfore by admost half year by reducing the workforce by almost half.

The received wisdom was that several years after privatisation most of the "fat" had been cut out of the utilities, to the benefit of investors and customers, leaving learn efficient and clearly focussed operations. Yet Southern Water's apparent obsession with diversification into non-core activities now looks about as strategically focussed as sticking a pin in a page of the telephone

directory. Scottish Power has found savings all over the place. Southern had two separate head offices, one for the PLC and one for the regulated water business, with huge duplication of work. Some 25 staff were employed just to manage cash transactions between the two corporate structures. The same excess seems to exist in other utilities too. In the case of Manweb, the regional electricity company Manwer, the regional electricity company bought by Scottish Power list year, the existing management had already slashed the workforce from 4,415 to 3,350 during their unsuccessful bid defence. Yet a year later Scottish Power had found another 500 jobs

Both regulators and Government should bear this in mind should they feel tempted to block the two outstanding bids for regional electricity companies on the grounds that they would lead to a loss of quoted comparisons.

Bank of England revamps money market dealing

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

ner de mausty

The Bank of England yesterday announced the biggest reform for more than a century in the way that interest rates are set, marking the end of the privileged position of the City's sev-

en discount houses.

The bank's dealings in the short-term money markets are to be opened early next year to a wide range of banks, building societies and securities firms of UK or continental ownership.

debt backed by government honds – are to become a ke part of the bank's daily trading with the market.

The discount houses are specialist banks that have traditionally had a monopoly on daily dealings in bills of exchange with the Bank of England. Trading in the bills is used to control interest rates and signal changes in the cost of borrowing.

The reforms, scheduled for early next year, will restructure London's sterling money markets in line with proposals expected to be adopted for the market in euros when the single currency is in operation.

an executive director of the

bank, denied the restructuring in London was prompted by the single currency or the discussions under way at the European Monetary Institute on how to set interest rates after monetary union. "That's not our main motive," he said. Mr Plenderleith said there

were advantages in bringing the UK structure into line with the Continent, whether or not bond markets would be "absolutely at the forefront" in world terms, Mr Plenderleith

He said the driving force for change was rapid evolution in the City, especially the mushrooming growth of the £15bna-day gills repo market, where £60bn of repos are currently in

The bank will continue to use the traditional bill market operated by the discount houses. But from next year, changes in interest rates will be signalled by a move in repo rates rather than the traditional method of altering the rates at which the

However, Ian Plenderleith, bank deals in the discount mar-

The bank is also abandoning its insistence that gilt-edged market makers are established as separate firms, known as Gemms, and instead will allow them to be merged into their parent groups' balance sheets. Gilts repo dealers will sign a private contract with the bank and there will be no published list.

There are to be changes in the money market dealing Britain joined the single cur-rency. After the reforms, the At the same time, gilt repos London money markets would banks that need overnight be "state of the art" and the loans. The discount houses' obligation to underwrite the weekly Treasury bill tender will be dropped.

The discount houses, which are specialist banks, have been given a decade of quiet warnings by the bank that their market will be opened up. They have already diversified

into other financial specialisms and some have moved into the gilts repo market. Cater Allen, one of the leading houses, said: We believe we will benefit from the changes]." Until the reform, however, the

houses have retained their spe-cial access to the bank's dealing



lan Plenderleith: Denied the restructuring was prompted by the single currency

The value of this privilege has been whittled away in recent years because the clearing banks have become the dominant bill market traders, even though they have had to channel their dealings with the bank through the houses.

In 1994, the bank further eroded the houses' role by experimentally beginning fort-

nightly, rather than daily, dealings in gilt repos outside the dis-

count market. The European Monetary In-stitute is expected to publish proposals in January for the detailed operations of the money market in euros.

According to the bank's discussion document, the plans being drawn up by the Euro-

We've

pean Monetary Institute are relevant to any further de-velopment of the bank's operations whether or not the UK participates in monetary union: the changes proposed in this paper are consistent with the

posals currently under discus-

put a

direction and spirit of the prosion at the European Monetary

There was a similar flurry of

Price controls have obviously achieved wonders in improving efficiency, but if Southern Water is anything to go by, they have not gone anywhere near far enough.

Continental and Delta in merger talks

David Usborne

Speculation about a fresh wave of consolidation in the American airline industry was reignited yesterday on reports that Delta Air Lines and Continental Airlines were in talks about a nossible merger.

The two carriers were said to be continuing tentative merger talks that were instigated by Continental last summer. It was widely believed, however. that the contacts were still in the exploratory phase and that no final agreement on a full-out merger was imminent.

An eventual marriage of the and send ripples through the in-dustry worldwide. If combined, Delta, the third-largest US carrier, and Continental, number five, would emerge as the largest airline in the world.

There was no comment on the speculation from either carrier yesterday. However, Carla Villalon, spokeswoman for Continental, gave credence to the belief that exploratory talks were taking place by saying the company would have no announcement concerning a possible merger with Delta until at least the "distant future".

activity in the industry a year ago

when it was revealed that US-Air had effectively put itself up for sale and entered talks with United Airlines and American Airlines. Both sets of talks quickly fizzled, however, and USAir is still flying alone.

The prospect of a large merg-er finally happening continues to mesmerise the industry. Any such transaction would torpedo the status quo and prompt every other large carrier to find partners to take down the marriage aisle. In that instance, US-Air, in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, would be quickly snapped up.

Though not overwhelming. there is some logic to a Deltacompanies would transform the Continental tie-up. They have aviation landscape in the US complimentary hub networks in the US and Continental would give Delta strength in the South, notably in Texas, and in New York, Continental would also bolster Delta's presence in South America. After several miserable years

that included two journeys into bankruptcy, Continental has engineered a widely-admired turnaround back into profit under the leadership of its chief ex-ecutive, Gordon Bethune. Delta has also bounced back into profit. The two carriers have flects that would be ill-matched. however, and analysis warn complications would arise from combining their workforces.

FirstBus to run **Eastern** rail line

Patrick Tooher

FirstBus yesterday won its first outright railway franchise when Britain's biggest local bus company was awarded the right to run the Great Eastern line out of London's Liverpool Street sta-

However, FirstBus could run into regulatory problems as it already operates local bus services within the Great Eastern franchise area. Last night the Office of Fair

Trading confirmed it would examine the competition implica-tions of the award. "We will be looking at this in the normal way," said an OFT spokesman.

FirstBus, which also has a 24.5 per cent interest in the Great Western franchise, is promising passengers on the busy commuter line a £9m improvement package. The franchise, lasting seven years and three months, will involve the company refurbishing trains, increasing services, cleaning up stations and raising

punctuality targets. There are also plans to introduce a pilot through-ticketing scheme on buses and trains in Colchester and Chelmsford. However, Trevor Smallwood, FirstBus chairman, refused to rule out job cuts among Great

Eastern's 1,400 staff. FirstBus will receive a subsidy of £29m from taxpayers in the first year of the franchise, compared with the £40.6m given to British Rail in 1996-1997. But the annual grant will dwindle to nothing in 2001-2, and by 2003-4 FirstBus will actually be customers would be relatively paying the Government's rail franchise office £9.5m.

US inflation rate could be overstated by 1.1%

Rupert Cornwell Washington

US government statistics may be heavily overestimating the country's rate of inflation, and a correction could slash tens of billions of dollars off the country's annual budget deficit and simultaneously boost the chances of a political deal for a balanced federal budget.

According to a report to Congress by an authoritative inde-pendent commission yesterday, the Consumer Price Index overstates the real inflation rate by 1.1 percentage points. In other words, US inflation is running at not just under 3 per cent a year, but little more than 1.5 per cent. For the public finances, the consequences of such an adustment would be momentous.

Social security payments. geared to the CPI, would rise less rapidly, as would inflation-

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

ast month's Budget.

Several privatised utility com-

panies are pressing for "imme-

diate" increases in customers'

bills to compensate for sur-

prise tax changes announced in

of ScottishPower, said yesterday

he would be writing to the elec-

tricity and water regulators to

press for higher hills when the

tax changes take effect from

next April. The increases for

small, though they would be "in

pounds rather than pennies".

lan Russell, finance director

higher. Higher receipts and smaller outlays would reduce the federal borrowing require-

In all, calculates the commission headed by Michael Boskin, a former chief economic adviser to President Bush, a change in the index could cut the federal deficit by \$60bn (£37bn) by 2002, the target year of both democratic and Republican plans for a balanced budget. On present trends, that year's deficit is put

at between \$150bn and \$200bn. Doubts about the validity of the CPI have long been voiced here by no less than Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Board chairman, among others. There is a growing view that the structure of the CPI does not take sufficient account of ever fiercer competition in the econlinked income tax deductions only, and the tendency of con-

Utilities call for higher bills

rass the Government as min-

gather today for a DTI confer-

ence hailing the achievements

amount of new investment com-

panies can write off against cor-

poration tax bills from 25 to 6

per cent. The alteration only ap-

plies to spending on assets with

lives of more than 25 years, and

has many exclusions including investment on trains and ships.
Tax experts have predicted

that utility companies, which invest heavily in pipes and cables,

will bear the brunt of the mea-

The tax changes slash the

of privatisation.

The move is likely to embar- sure. It will raise £45m for the

isters and utility executives £675m a year in 1999/2000.

and exemptions, meaning that the Treasury's tax take would be tives if a particular item covered tives if a particular item covered in the index becomes more expensive. But the latest finding could not be better timed for

the balanced budget lobby. Not only was the US deficit of \$106bn in fiscal 1996 the lowest in 20 years (and at 1.6 per spectable of any major industrial country), but the political landscape is favourable for a bipartisan budget agreement within the next 12 to 18 months.

Even before yesterday's report, the gap between Republican and Democratic budget blueprints had shrunk to a total of \$148bn over the five years until 2002. An enlarged Republican majority in the Senate makes it more likely that a constitutional amendment to balance the budget will clear Congress in 1997, giving both sides political cover to strike an

Treasury next year, rising to

Mr Russell estimated the tax

change would ultimately knock

£25m off ScottishPower's annual

profits. He said: "We are look-

ing and I'm sure every other util-

ity will be looking very hard at

recovering the entra tax charge."
British Gas also confirmed it would be pressing for softer price cuts for its pipeline business, TransCo, which is the subject of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry, to

compensate. The tax change will

cost the company an extra £40m

into our tax machine

to give you some

extra

The Canon MultiPASS 10 far machin it can also be used as a printer For further mation, treephone 0500 245 245.

If anyone can Canon can

and its replacement by its own nominees. Selfcare has 28.9 per

cent of Environmed, which is re-

sisting the US attack. It is the

Ritz Music made a low-key

Ofex debut, holding at its 55p

included a warning of a divi-

dend cut.

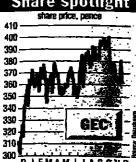
market report/shares

BTR retreats again on trading statement rumours Data Bank **FTSE 100** 4045.2 -16.3 FTSE 250 4421.9 -5.7 FTSE 350 2008.5 -6.9 SEAO VOLUME 750.7m shares,

Share spotlight

35,408 bargains

Gifts Index



market doghouse.
The shares tumbled 6.5p to 231.5p, lowest for five years as wornes grew about the contents of a rumoured trading statement which could, some believe, appear today. BTR fell out of favour with

the rest of the conglom clan. The new chief executive, Ian Strachan, is struggling to reshape the sprawling group into a focused global engineering and manufacturing operation. Interim profits, produced in September, were subdued but encouraged some analysts to adopt a more positive stance. Yet the shares have continued their seemingly re-morseless slide to the particular dismay, no doubt, of many former holders of the

After the interim figures, the

The agony continues for BTR, the once high-flying conglomerate which has become a permanent feature of the stock

price, down to 231.5p in the summer, moved to 280p, an encouraging development for BTR, which had issued war-

rants with a 258p striking price. In the event the group pulled in £280m as most warrant holders were tempted to take up their share entitlements. The latest BTR retreat occurred as the stock market pondered the sudden weakness in

4,045.2 with the supporting

New York and was ruffled by uncertainty on the gilts front, where there was widespread disappointment over the result of the £2.5bn Government the Government unloaded. Capel acted for Saudi Arastocks auction. It was covered only 1.7 times against expec-tations approaching 2.5 times. Footsie fell 16.3 points to bian billionaire Sulimann S Olayan in May when, in a

indices also giving ground. The overhang from the Gov-ernment's sales of utility rumps ernment's sales of utility rumps also disturbed sentiment.

HSBC James Capel, famed for its involvement in the long-tunning mystery of Hanson's Hanson's snareholder in the grid.

General Electric Co, figures tomorrow, was little changed at 363.5p. Lehman Brothers is looking for interder side, might use the Fraser outlets to roll out a national

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

to £431m. It has put a 1997 tar-National Grid share sale, disget price of 405p on the shares.
British Aerospace ran into turbulence, falling 28.5p to 1,121.5p as the French government suspended moves to privatise Thomson. The aero closed it was still hugging most of the British Energy shares it had picked up from the Gov-ernment. Its total stake, listed as a market makers holding, amounts to 8.75 per cent of Energy's capital. Other securities houses are also sitting on stock

confusing derivatives deal, he emerged as a 12.5 per cent shareholder in the grid.

group was a junior partner in what had appeared to be the successful vehicle for the privatisation. House of Fraser, the department store chain, was giv-en another takeover whirl with

Burton replaced by Sears and Storehouse as the most likely bidders. One suggestion was Sears, which should have cash to spare if it sells its mail or-der side, might use the Fraser

Selfridges chain. Harvey cowngrading and saying sell. Wescol, a structural steel group, gained 2p to 54.5p as the chairman, Peter Price, conemerge as a surprise candidate. It has been flexing its muscles and could see Fraser as a firmed a high order intake. Environmed, a medical quick route to achieving a more widespread presence. Glasso Wellcome fell 11p to group, firmed to 24.5p as a US

958p. Merrill Lynch has made cautious noises and trimmed its profit expectations. A suggested switch from Cable & Wireless into BT lowered Cable 13.5p to 460.5p and lifted BT 5.5p to 386.5p.

There appeared to be some-thing of a tug-of-war over Maiden, the advertising group. The shares plunged 25p to 266.5p with UBS apparently doing the damage with a prof-it downgrade. NatWest Securities, however, remained supportive, sticking with its £8.1m forecast against £3.6m

last year.

Meyer International, the timber group, was shaved 1.5p to 368.5p with Merrill Lynch Taking Stock

John D Wood, the up-mar ket residential estate agent, jumped 9p to 84.5p, a year's high. The excitement stems from the apparent continuing activity in the London housing market with, it seems, the higher mortgage rates bliss-fully ignored. Joint chairman group, Selfcare, demanded a shareholders' meeting to press for the sacking of the board George Pope has estimated London house prices will rise by at least 20 per cent this year, Last year Wood made profits of £729,000; around £1.2m could be achieved in second US strike this year; ear-lier a company related to Self-care was defeated. the current year which ends

Manchester City, the strug-gling football club, fell 5p to 110p on Ofex after confirmplacing Leslie Wise, the fash-ion group, fell 11.5p to 37.5p after a bleak statement which ing a £10.8m cash call at 80p a share, underwritten by John Wardle and Shephen

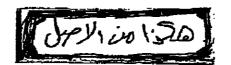
The company promises a bonus issue of shares or reversed 1.5p to 7p, a low. The shares were 53p a year ago. The company raised £1.5m through warrants if the club wins

Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the stare price. The price/sentings (PFE) ratio is the stare price divided by lest year's sentings per stare, excluding exceptional items. Other details or Ex rights x Ex-dividend as Ex-all u United Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. 3 ASS Stock. Cellne The independent index The index allows you to access real-time sters prices by phone from Seac. Simply diel 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed ment to each attent. To access the latest linearcial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. Anyone with a tone-clair telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, cell our helpline 0171 873 4375 (800sm - 5.00pm).

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Building / Construction

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Saudi prince buys Hotel George V for £104m



Granada Group has sold the Hotel George V in Paris, a legacy from its takeover of Forte earlier this year, to Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (above) of Saudi Arabia for £104m.

The Hotel George V fronts Avenue George V on Paris's Right Bank. Since opening in 1928, the 258-room hotel has een a favourite among celebrities. Prince Alwaleed said: "The Hotel George V is one of the most famous hotels in Europe and we believe it has the potential to become one of the most successful

Cellnet's £1bn boost for digital network

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

originals regionals

.... 1 the righting

Cellnet yesterday pledged to intensify competition in the mobile phone business by spending a further £1bn on improving the coverage of its digital network and creating new services for business customers.

The bulk of the investment, which will be spent over the next five years, will be used to more than double the number of digital base stations used to receive signals from 1,600 to 3,300. The group, 60 per cent owned by British Telecom and 40 per cent by Securicor, claimed this would raise signal quality above that of its three competitors: Vodafone, Orange and One2One.

The additional base stations should go some way to addressing the most common complaint of mobile phone customers: that company market- many of the more rural areas of tension would also double as a ing stressing consistent coverage the UK do not have signal

squared with the reality.

Cellner admitted that its own recent customer research had shown only 70 per cent to 75 per cent of calls were made successfully, compared with computer tests which showed coverage of more than 90 per cent of the population. However, a report published

today in the Consumers Association magazine Which? warns that all the networks have limitations on where in the UK the phone will work. The report found one in every 25 calls either failed to connect or was cut off. The survey also found Cellnet's digital network was below average, though Orange came off worst of the four.

The Government has ruled that the older analogue net-works of Cellnet and Vodafone must be replaced by 2005, but ings where each telephone ex-

and signal quality rarely coverage at all. Cellnet said it aimed to raise its coverage from 70 per cent of the UK landmass to 80 per cent.

Vodafone last month revealed it had more than doubled its investment to £509m with much of the increase going on expanding coverage in the rest of Europe. One One, owned by Cable & Wireless and US West, has also raised more than £1bn to fund the completion of its nationwide digital network. Cellnet estimated some 100,000 people in the Britain work in the mobile phone busine

Further cash would be spent on new business services using an additional frequency band allocated to Celinet and Voda-fone by the DTI. Mike Tiplady, Cellnet's technology director, said he would soon be offering new services inside office buildmobile phone.

Carlton sets its sights on pay-TV

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Carlton Communications : at a glance

MMC worries

Carisberg-Tetlev deal.

Five Year Record

Operating profit by business

☐ 1995

sour Bass's year

ply with possible OFT-DTI demands.

As media moguls go, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, keeps a very low profile. There is no sign of his personal image changing, but his reputation as an over-cautious deal-maker in the fast-changing world

of television may be about to disappear.

Last month he nipped in to steal south-west of England ITV franchiseholder Westcountry Television from under the pose of Lord Hollick, United News & Media's acquisitive chief ex-

ecutive, with a knock-out bid of £85m. It was third time lucky this year for Mr Green after the Labour-leaning peer beat Carlton to the punch when his MAI group merged with United News & Media. United also pipped Carlton in picking up a 20 per cent stake in HTV, the Welsh broadcaster. from Scottish Television.

Yesterday Mr Green gave his clearest signal yet that Carlton intends to be a serious player in the brave new world of multi-channel subscription and pay-per-view television. "We want to build up our interests in pay television, both as a content provider and operator," he said. "This may encompass

cable, satellite and digital television." Carlton already has two small cable channels, but it sees the new media, in particular the advent of digital terrestrial television, as opening up new investment vistas while being complementary with its free-to-air, advertiser supported ITV licences. The latter inchide the London weekday franchise and Birmingham-based Central.

Mr Green's enthusiasm for the potential of pay-TV appears to have grown since the Department of Trade and Industry published its "near-final" guidelines on the regulation of digital television last month. Carlton, other commercial broadcasters and the BBC had lobbied the Government to ensure that the digital set-top boxes due to be introduced next year by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB will be open to all.

Mr Green insists that Carlton's core business in terrestrial television remains a "significant asset", delivering mass audiences to advertisers. And it would be wrong to assume from results for the year to September that good, oldfashioned free TV has had its day. True, operating profits from television rose a measly 5 per cent to £129m on sales just 2 per cent higher at £686m, while profits at the group level advanced 17 per cent to £291m on turnover 6 per cent up at £1.68bn.

But Carlton, which accounts for almost a third of the ITV advertising cake, says the outlook for advertising revenue is good as the economy continnes to grow, noting strong growth in adverts for telecoms and cars recently. Elsewhere Carlton's film (Technicolor) and video activities go from

strength to strength as technological ad-

vances shorten the time it takes block-

converted branches of Harvester, busters like Toy Story or Twister to move O'Neills and the rural Fork & Pitcher from the box office into video formats. pubs are being opened rapidly. Pre-tax profits for the current year

The driving force is robust food sales, should rise to £340m from £295m. which increased by 54 per cent across implying a p/e ratio of 15, with the the group last year. Food now accounts shares down 14p at 489.5p. About right. for 16 per cent of sales in the group's 2,700 managed pubs.

In brewing, old favourites such as Carling Black Label managed to increase sales by 5.7 per cent, while some of the new brands are racing ahead. Caffrey's, one of the earliest nitroken beers, has seen volumes rise by almost Bass may have had glad tidings about job creation and capital investment yesterday but the shares remain over-50 per cent year-on-year. Then there is Hooper's Hooch, the dominant brand in the fizzing alcopop market. Bass sold 320,000 barrels of the stuff shadowed by another issue entirely: the possible referral of the proposed last year, compared with just 40,000 the With no decision from the DTI and year before. Bass reckons that consumers will absorb the 40 per cent rise the prospect of a lengthy MMC invesin duty announced in last week's Budtigation looming, the shares have been in limbo at around the 800p mark. If the deal does go through, Bass will have get. Hooper's has also been launched in 30 countries, with Japan proving par-

to sell some of its tenanted pubs to comticularly fertile ground. Bass's problem areas are bingo and Holiday luns. Bingo admissions were If it is refused, or the conditions are too down by 13 per cent in the year. Though onerous, the deal may have to be un-Bass is closing its older "ex-cinema" halls in favour of larger. "flat floor" ravelled at a net cost of around £60m. Leaving aside the uncertainty of the Carlsberg-Tetley saga, Bass looks in good shape. Like Whitbread, it is clubs, halting the decline in the face of National Lottery will prove tough. pushing its branded pubs and restau-rants for all they are worth. New and

At Holiday lans, operating profit was 19 per cent higher at £195m though

247

93 94 95 96

168 - 202 240

Share price pence

91 92

8.26

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN there are concerns that the rate of growth is slowing. Occurrency rates are growth is slowing. Occupancy rates ap-pear to have plateaued and some analysis feel there may be only one year's real growth left in this division.

Merrill Lynch is forecasting 1997 profits of £741m which, with the shares up 2p at \$13p yesterday, puts them on a forward rating of 15. A solid bet in a sector set to benefit from the uplift in consumer spending.

TLG heading for brighter times

The lights flickered at TLG earlier this year. In retrospect it perhaps ought to have been clear when we tipped the commercial lighting group in June af-ter a cracking set of maiden annual re-sults that TLG could not swim against deteriorating markets forever. All five of its main markets fell off a chiff at once in August, forcing the group to issue a profits warning which has left the shares languishing at below the 115p offer price of two years ago.

But the market breathed a sigh of relief that interim figures showing pre-tax profits slashed from £11.4m to £8.3m in the six months to September were no worse than the much-reduced expectations and the shares picked up 10p to 103p yesterday. With sales virtually that at £187m, the

past six months have been bloody for TLG, once an arm of Thorn, in the UK. prices fell as competition for large light-ing jobs intensitied, while the Continent was hit by governments taking action to rein in public spending ahead of expected monetary union at the end of the century. Between 25 and 40 per cent of TLG's sales on the Continent are ultimately dependent on state contracts, ranging from municipal street lighting to government offices.

TLG has done well to hold its own or improve its market share in all its markets, which contracted by between 2.8 per cent in the UK and 9.5 per cent in Germany during the first half. The group has restructured management and reckons cost-cutting measures

will deliver savings of £3m in a full year. With net cash of £3.2m and a 9.5 per cent market share, second only to Philips, TLG has plenty of scope to acquire in Europe. Meanwhile it is just scratching the surface in the Asian market, where it is starting its first manufacturing facilities in the revamped joint

venture with Jardine Pacific.

Profits of £22.5m in the full year would put the shares onto a forward multiple of 13. The brave will follow managing director Thierry Vayssette. who has just bought 26,657 at 99p. The more cautious will wait while the company restores its reputation in the City.

In Brief

محافوت بالمناسب الماليان

 The Stock Exchange has tightened the admission rules to the AIM market for small companies by reducing the threshold for disclosure of share stakes at the time of listing from 10 per cent to 3 per cent. It is also asking for a more extensive warning to investors about the risk of the issue. There will be faster publication of information about trades on the market and earlier notification of new listings.

• British Airways said its passenger traffic in November grew 11.4 per cent on the previous year. The load factor for the monthwas up 1.5 points over last year at 68.9 per cent. The company said this was the highest year-on-year traffic growth the group had seen this financial year. Growth in long-haul traffic at 13.7 per cent was particularly strong, and considerably outpaced the 2 per cent growth in higher-yielding short-haul traffic, said BA.

 Ashbourne accepted a £95m cash bid from Exceler Health Care Group yesterday to form one of the UK's biggest nursing home. companies. Ashbourne's shares leaped last week from 140p to 165p after the company said it had been approached with a bid proposal. The enlarged company will be called Ashbourne. The bid implies an exit multiple of around 20 times 1996 earnings based on the share price before last week's announcement.

• Small companies' accounts would be subject to a single set of rules under proposals published by the Accounting Standards Board today. The document broadly follows recommendations for reducing the regulation of smaller listed companies made by a working party of accountants, but it requires the disclosure of related party transactions on the grounds that they are more relevant to these companies than to larger ones.

 Associated Nursing Services made pre-tax profits of £1.4m for the six months to 30 September 1996, up from £1.08m last time. The dividend was raised to 0.95p from 0.85p last time. Neil Macfarlane, chairman, said the company was launching a big development programme and incurring necessary start-up losses. He said the company had 36 homes with 2,223 beds and was building or extending a further 11 homes.

 Pearson's managing director, Frank Barlow, has sold 30,000 shares in the company at 737.5p each. Mr Barlow now holds 38,750 shares. Separately, Dennis Stevenson, a director of Pearson, has acquired 30,000 shares in the company at a price of 737.5p each.

 James Fisher is buying P&O Tankships Holdings from Peninsular & Oriental Navigation for £38.8m including debt. The Barrow-in-Furness shipping group will pay £19.2m in cash and pay £19.6m in borrowings from other companies in the P&O group. P&O Tankships has four tankers under construction in China with a liability of about £16.8m expected to remain outstanding at completion. James Fisher is raising around £27.4m after expenses through a 1-for-1 rights issue at 120p per share.

• Vardon's shares rose 6.5p to 87.5p following a positive trading statement from the leisure group. Higher consumer spending is expected to boost the second-half performance, which had already exceeded expectations.

	Campo	ny Result	c	
	Jangar E	Pro-tax E	₽S	Dividend
Assoc Hersing Services (1)	18.3m (7 4m)	1 40m († Jišm)	6.6p (4.7p)	0.950 (0.850)
Assoc Nersing (1)	(m). it) a69.8	-3.0m (-0.1m)	4.4p (-0.1p) 50.4p (43.4p)	- (-) 250 (22.7p)
Bass (F)	5 1 fm (4.54m) 63.9m (56.8m)	67141 (589ml) 15.3m (14.2m)	36.90 (34.20)	140 (130)
State (P) Seed Group (I)	2 87m (2.75m)	0 12m (0.08m)	1.350 (0.910)	0.12p (0.11p) Sp (5p)
California (i)	(and 12.5) and 2.68	0.75m (0.25m) -2.03m (-1.55m)	17.30 (5.5p) -3.7p (-2.9p)	- (·)
Cultura (i)	9.78m (1.11m) 1 (8bp (1.58bn)	295m (247m)	31.60 (25.10)	- (e)
Carles (F)	15.2m (12.8m)	0.95m (0.68m) 3.57m (4.23m)	8.6p (6.1p) 3.6p (4.4p)	2.25p (1.75p) 1.23p (1.23p)
Calgà Estarests (l)	55.101 (50.501) 12.602 (8.4600)	1.3m (0.82m)	1.420 (1.20)	0.39 (0.259)
Orbit (f) Pillar Property (f)	21 9m (13.8m)	3.2m (T.Tat)	2.1p (1p) 14.01p (11.14p)	1.58 (1.50) 5.170 (5.170)
Sentist Power (7	1.25bs [777m) 13.2m (12.5m)	167m (128m) 0.51m (-2.8m)	0.20 (-8.70)	15 (利)
Starting Petalishing(I) 761 (I)	25.50 (19.20)	1.0m (0.814)	3.9p (3.3p)	1.15p (10) 1,4p (1.4p)
TL9 (I)	187m (186m)	8.3m (1.4m)	36 (4.19) 27 26 (0.198)	rill (all)

Roddick opens business school

Roger Trapp

Anita Roddick, chief executive of The Body Shop, is challenging business schools by calling for management education to encompass social justice, human rights and spirituality as well as nance and marketing.

At yesterday's formal launch

of the New Academy of Business, the outspoken founder of the cosmetics group said she hoped the establishment would have a practical effect on the ways in which companies, pub-lic-sector bodies and other organisations acted. "If all management education does is stimulate lofty thinking, it will have failed," she said. Since being set up last year,

the academy has begun several initiatives aimed at encouraging business leaders to go "beyond the financial bottom line and incorporate a sense of moral purpose". It has set up a network of organisations in-cluding BT, Anglian Water, the US-based electronics company Hewlett-Packard and the advertising agency St Lukes to work together to develop best practice for "socially responsi-

The academy announced yesterday it was joining forces with Bath University's management school to run a masters degree in responsibility and business practice. The two-year, parttime course will run from next March, and it is hoped that about 20 people representing small and large companies, public-sector bodies and other organisations will pay fees of

£5,000 a year. Both Ms Roddick and Judi Marshall, who developed the course with her Bath colleague, Peter Reason, insisted the approach would be centred round the exchange of information and insights and the debating of ideas rather than tuition. The development comes as

bodies such as the Tomorrow's Company project are looking at new models for business. David Mathew, the academy's director, said the organisation would complement existing ventures.

Ms Roddick said: "I have a vision of the New Academy of

Business being a research incubator of best practices in socially and environmentally responsi-ble business. Business leaders require an enlarged vocabulary to deal with these issues."

Upbeat Kingfisher notes rising sales

Nigel Cope

Kingfisher, the Woolworths and B&Q retail group, provided further evidence of the recovery in consumer spending yesterday when it issued an upbeat trading statement for its third quarter.

The company said like-forlike sales in the three months to 2 November were 7.5 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Woolworths did well with a 9.4 per cent improvement in comparative sales. Toys have been a good seller with popular items including Buzz Lightyear from the Toy Story Disney movie and the perennial Barbie doll and Action Man. Childrens

clothing also performed well. Kinglisher's B&Q DIY division turned in a good quarter with a 12.7 per cent sales increase and Comet, the electrical chain impressed with a 13.9 per

cent advance. Large screen televisions, personal computers and Dyson vacuum cleaners are among the top sellers. Superdrug's progress was more pedestrian with a 5.4 per

cent like-for-like sales increase. Worst performer was Darty, the French electrical retailer. Sales there were flat due to the weakness in the French eco-

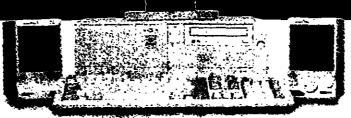
The market had been expecting good news and Kingfisher shares edged 1.5p higher at 654p. However, Nick Bubb of Mees Pierson said of the figures:

it so well because, in theory, they should have done a bit better than that." Mr Bubb is forecasting fullyear profits of £375m, and

They're good but I'm a bit surprised the market has taken

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The UK's



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cance almost equal to that of a hitel Pennism Philo (Zef-Dan Winstone 96 score of 81 9 for P150+ compared with 82 7 for P160+ (ingel Penning P120 models for the budget conscious trate £799

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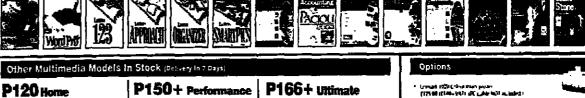
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High technology fails to weaken the lure of London's Square Mile

decade ago, at the time of the City of London's Big Bang, derivatives were an alarming derivatives were an alarming thanks to high technology. innovation which people needed a PhD to understand. To many people, they are no less alarming and no easier to comprehend now, but they are part of the landscape. And they do make it clear that the financial services industry is on the frontier of the information technology revolution

For Big Bang in London financial centres were defined as much by the huge investment in information technology and telecommunications as by regulatory

change.
This investment, the need to stay on the technological wild west, remains the hallmark of the financial markets - the first and biggest cyberindustry. William Mitchell of the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology calls derivatives "pure creations of cyberspace".* The economic engine of the

financial services industry is the production, transformation, distribution and consumption of digital information. It is in the front line of the shift towards what I call the weightless world.

This name reflects the fact that the economy physically weighs about the same now as it did a century ago, partly because most goods are smaller and lighter, partly because the things that increasingly have the greatest economic value are software and ser-

This shift raises some interesting questions. Digital industry can take place anywhere, so why do financial services continue to be focused on the City? And would a UK decision not to join the European single currency threaten the City?

It is a paradox that, as its

This includes back offices registrars - any functions where the information can be put on a production line. But the high value added functions remain and are becoming increasingly concentrated in the Square Mile as more foreign banks move in.

There are certainly cost pressures to move out, or Canary Wharf would not exand similar changes in other ist and thrive. Rents and taxes are high in the City, the burden of commuting is heavy, deliveries and logistics are difficult, and there is even the threat of terrorism. With the cost of telecoms falling and quality rising steadily, acting as a powerful decentralising force, there must be

some pretty strong glue.

So what explains the paradox? A lot of the standard explanations for London's appeal seem pretty weak.
There is a pool of skilled labour, the English language, the time zone – but this is just as true of Luton as of London. And a lot of City workers probably live closer to Luton than to London.

Another standard explanation is that processing and exchange of information is essentially social. That you're not in the know if you're not in the bar. That rumours, gossip, sensitive conversations and spin doctoring don't work on the phone.

There may be something in this. But frankly, anyone who says you can't gossip down the line hasn't listened to a teenager recently.

It is the weightless economics that explain London's magic. One key is the existing infrastructure, representing enormous fixed investment in expensive equipment, in the initial concentration of information, as well as the ease of connecting with other peoactivity has dematerialised, ple. History matters in ecothe City as a place has become nomics, like path-dependence



DianeCoyle

Explanations for London's appeal seem weak. There is a pool of skilled labour, English language, the

time zone – but

this is just as true

of Luton

in science - just think of the enormous cost of laying cable and installing screens in other locations.

A related element is the "oasis" effect of access to high bandwidth cable connections, the fibres whose capacity to transmit digital bits is effectively infinite. The cost of using these channels increases enough with distance that users cluster to-

But just as important is the fact that telecoms allow concentration as well as decentralisation, to exploit economies of scale. It means that trading operations for international banks are increasingly centred on London. Deutsche Bank's decision to base its trading in the City is emblematic.

In economic geography,

economic activity is concentration. The obvious manifestation of this is that most people live in urban areas.

US economist Robert Hall puts this in extreme form when he says a city and a boom are essentially the same thing, one in space and one in time. In addition, most urban areas are very specialised because of the economies of scale. Hollywood does movies, Seattle does aircraft,

Paris does couture. London does financial services. It embodies the circularity of economic geography that companies want to be where the market is biggest and the market is biggest where the companies are.

This happens when there are big enough economies of scale and low enough transport costs. The economies of scale are clear in something like trading in the financial markets although they probably do not exist to as great a degree in sales. Falling transport costs, which comprise telecoms costs as far as it is a people business. the City is concerned, have therefore probably helped reinforce the concentration of some types of financial ser-

vices in London. Last but not least among the economic explanations is the fact that the financial services industry is growing rapidly, and a lot of the growth is going to take place where it is already located.

The advantage of infrastructure and economies of other professional or whitescale and growth will not be collar jobs, work attaches itoverturned until there is technical obsolescence on at least the scale of Big Bang, 10 years ago, and perhaps not work against London's prieven then. It is similarly implausible to suggest that UK dimensional city in geomembership or non-membership of the single Euro-pean currency would make all Great Fire, industrialisation bership of the single Eurothat much difference.

Could these economic buttresses of the City's pre-eminence ever crumble? New technologies will almost cer- Muchell, MIT Press 1996.

the key to the location of tainly change the economic calculations significantly.

Techno-authors such as Nicholas Negroponte describe the possibilities elo-quently, from clothes that form part of your computer such as batteries in the belt buckle and antennae in the frames of your glasses, to holograms of software agents sitting in front of your computer screen, waiting for verbal instructions.

This still seems the stuff of science fiction but one thing that is already clear is that modern technology and communications mean the link binding work to workplace is crumbling

Not too long ago a fine building in the Square Mile would correspond one-to-one with a fine old institution. It rendered the institution visible and concrete. This is no longer true. It is people, not places, who define the institution these days, and a shifting group of people at that. It is at least as true of financial services as of advertising that

Equally, work is making greater claims over people. Work follows most of us everywhere, thanks to the phone, fax, pager, mobile and laptop. We could be seeing the start of a reversal of the trend towards the divorce of home and workplace identified by the historian Lewis Mumford in his 1934 classic, Technics and Civilisation. In financial services, as in many self to the person, not the

These shifts will continue to macy as a place, a threegraphical space. But if it can and the automobile, it can probably also beat off the challenge of cyberspace. "City of Birs", William

The truth is out there: on video and worth £1m

A British insurance broker says it is about to pay £1m to a client who insured himself against being abducted by aliens.

Simon Burgess of brokers GRIP says Joseph Carpenter, who paid £100 in October to insure himself against being whisked away, impregnated or eaten by aliens, has presented convincing proof of his

Mr Burgess, who has attracted much publicity by offering off the wall insurance policies, such as insurance gainst virgin births, says: We will be presenting Mr Carpenter with just under £1m on 21 December at a London hotel. Gillian Andersen of the X Files will present

"Mr Carpenter has presented video and other evidence. He has validated his claim and our intention is to provide him with his money. We have 26 insurers backing us." Mr Carpenter, an electri-

cian from Edmonton, London, can't wait to get his hands on the lolly. He describes the abduction: "It happened in Swindon. We were trespassing near a

military base. We've got camcorder footage, photos, a claw. They've done DNA tests on the claw - it's all been analysed at a Cambridge college." Isn't he afraid people will accuse him of being either

loopy or of making it all up?
The camera would have to be loopy as well. As long as I get my money I don't care what they call me. To be honest, I'm looking forward to meeting Gillian Andersen more than getting the cheque

wey hey!"
The Association of British Insurers says that more than 100,000 Americans have taken out similar insurance against alien kidnappings. Most British insurers are sniffy about these kinds of policies," says an ABI spokeswomen. It sounds like Mr Burgess could really clean up

City spin doctors Citigate

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



have been bought out by communications group Incepta in a reverse takeover valuing Citigate at around £28m. Founding directors of Citigate, like chief executive David Wright, who holds 10 per cent of the equity, will obviously trouser a big wedge.

What about Patrick Dono-

van, legendary bon vivant and business scoopster on the Guardian, who is about to join a Citigate subsidiary as a director? Has our hero

missed the boat? Quite the reverse, says Mr Wright. "Patrick's timing is impeccable. There were no share options under the previous set-up, but we will be looking to offer incentives to our directors." Lucky so and so.

Ian Plenderleith, an executive director of the Bank of England, partly regrets the Bank's plan to move its main afternoon money market dealing in bills from 2 o'clock to

In his characteristic dry way he says the 2pm dealing time "was inconvenient for people's lunch appointments, although it hasn't discouraged us (from dealing) in the past". He hotly denies that the Bank is moving the time later in order to aid the City's postprandial digestion. Mr Plenderleith also

laments the fact that he has

cornered the supply of oldfashioned top hats, which used to be such a feature of the Square Mile.

44.55

He says he bought the halfdozen hats from Muliens, the former government broker, but since then they have been sitting in a cupboard. He has so far failed to find a buyer. The last bill brokers to visit

the Bank in their top hats stopped doing so only four years ago. Now everything's done on the phone, he says. Mr Plenderleith's own top

hat is still in his office - but languishing unused. It's a ceremonial hangover from his titular, ceremonial role of Government Broker.

Among the 15-odd companies being flogged off by Williams Holdings is Rawlplug. The company was founded by John Rawlings in the 1920s. when he invented rawl plugs - which were originally made out of pig's blood and sisal. They still use sisal - but an alternative to pig's blood has been found.

Williams are also selling off Amdega, a company which builds up-market conscrvatories. Amdega claims it made the first ever conservatory in the UK in 1874, at Preston Hall near Darlington, for the Hall's owner Sir Robert Ropner, a local MP.

John Willcock

Foreign	i Exc	hang	e Rat	2S =	£37250			Interest Ra	ates
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark	unk	Gen
Country	Spot	1 month	3 морфа	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	Base 600%	Disc
US	16520	9-7	36-33	1000	_	_	0.6384	France	Lom
Canada	2.2281	54-49	164-156	13488	24-23	75-73	0.8610	Intervention 3.20%	Can
Germany	25879	69-61	203-193	15665	30-28	90-87	10000	italy	Prim
France -	8.7460	217-198	640-608	52942	86-81	269-258	33796	Discount 75%	Disc
taly	2541.2	31-45	103-123	1538.3	28-35	91-101	981966	Netherlands	Dera
Japan	18728	95-91	281-276	113.73	48-47	149-147	72,6013	Advances 250%	Disc
BĊU	13371	21-18	66-61	12356	13-14	44-45	0.5157		
Belgium	53.331	15-10	42-36	32,282	7-5	20-17	20,6080	Bond Yield	S
Denmerk	99039	222-177	655-556	59951	99-79	298-247	38271	Country Byr y	rieki %
Natherlands	29037	82-74	240-226	17577	39-37	121-115	1,1220	, <u></u>	
reland	10009	5-1	16-10	16505	6-3	10-6	0.3868	UK 71%	7.197
Norway	10,775	160-90	380-270	6.5223	50-25	119-69	41636	US 61/A6	585
Spain	217.76	12-21	31-48	13181	16-20	40-4B	84,1462	Japan 551%	168
Sweden	11.247	15-8	44-33	68081	41-16	152-101	4.3460	Australia 87/%	6.86
Switzerland	22000	85-76	239-226	13317	40-37	119-114	0.8501	Germany 825†%	476
Australia"	20708	10-16	15-25	12535	14-16	33-35	08003	France 51/46	454
long Kong	12.774	93-52	240-183	7.7325	2-0	2-7	49362	Yields calculated on b	cai hacia.
Malaysia	41738	0-0	0-0	2.5265	27-30	80-85	16126		
New Zeeland	23355	64-71	155-168	14137	54-56	97-99	0.9025	Money Mar	rket
Saudi Arabia	6.7958	0-0	0-0	3.7505	1-4	5-9	23942	,	0749
Singapore	23186	0-0	0-0	14035	24-19	70-65	0.8959		
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Austria	18,209		110228	Oman		06362	0.3850	Dollar CDs	•
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China	13.717		83011	Philips		35289	26,3400		
Egypt	5623		3.4051	Portu		60950	157960	Tourist Rat	PE
Finland	7327		46761	Catar		60131	3640		
Ghana	28438		172200	Ruses		123.45	552100	£ Buys	
Greece	406.20		245.B10			76990	46590	Australia(Dollars)	1992
india	58.976		35.7000	Taiwa		54603	27.5100	Austria(Schillings)	17.7400
Kuwait	0.496		0.3002	UAE	. 4	60713	36740	Belgium(Francs)	519200
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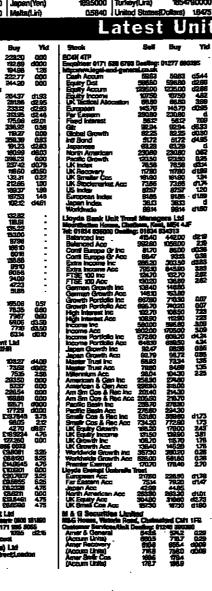
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3 Non Sterior	(Dec 96)	9356	985		1056	97927
3 MILL SHOWING	(May 97)	9330	93.3		11640	107605
3 Life Economic	(Dec 95)	9678	96.8		28394	197510
	(Mar 97)	9585	95.86		43049	271004
3 Mile Eurolina	(Dec 95)	2	92.9		14234	67648
	(Mex. 207)	93.65	936		15436	77523
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Jan		113/32	77/48	48/71	27/104	
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Mar		158/70	124/67	94/110	71/137	
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Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount: subtract from spot rate Cyprus(Pount										
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*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals, for the latest torsion authorize rates call near 122 en 29										
For the lazest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 50p per minute (dayrate) 45p other times.										
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Viking embarks on half-million mission

RICHARD EDMONDSON

When your owner's business is gest throughout a dramatic career. If he runs well in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on Saturday the testament to his enduring brilliance will be a breaching of the £500,000 earn-

ings barrier. Viking Flagship is the prop-erty of Graham Roach, who was a trainer of some distinction himself in the 1980s until he found it was impossible to achieve the amoebic qualities needed to prepare horses and run a company at the same

Cornwall [where he trained] is too far down geographically and there were so many business commitments," Roach said. "I wasn't able to split myself in half and make it work,

WINDSOR

1230 Fairy Knight

1.30 Secret Bid

2.00 Zaiko

1.00 Henrietta Howard

ways had to come first with me."

Roach's attention is now concentrated on Roach Foods, a firm that processes becon and animal meats it seems wise for ham for supermarkets and emarkets and emarkets and employs 800. But there are still veshis head by running slowly. For whatever reason, Viking Flagship has proved as difficult a foe to repel as his name might sugwarrior, Prideaux Boy.

The foals and store horses that the owner purchases receive their grounding at Prideaux and he estimates they are 85 per cent of the finished article before being boxed to either Oliver Sher-

Cornwall, formerly a county of tin mines and pasties in the

Viking Flagship's trainer.

guide books, also has the air and turf to nurture good racehorses. North west of Roach's production line (equine division) and facing the Celtic Sea is Bude and Walter Dennis's yard which produced the point-to-pointer Coome Hill to win the Hennessy at Newbury on Saturday.

Now the baton passes to Viking Flagship, who has won 21 of his 43 starts, many of the exhilarating ones in the hands of Saturday's jockey, Adrian but in seasons past, and if his

Maguire. At Sandown he will confront old enemies such as Sound Man and Klairon Davis, who will run if the ground is

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Relative Chance (Windsor 3.30) NB: Dark Nightingale (Windsor 1.00)

deemed soft enough after an inspection today, plus possibly the emerging talent of Ask Tom. Viking Flagship has proved vulnerable on his seasonal de-

one day a young man will come along and take his crown."

Viking Flagship might benefit from a hike up from two miles. but the folio containing that idea pairing of Double Symphony

first race," the owner said. "He's any of his speed he is still a force

never had an easy race, but he's to be reckoned with at two,"

Roach said.

Ray Cochrane, who won the "He is not on the vulnerable list 1988 Derby on Kahyasi, is on and there is no reason to suspect bridgeshire police. Cochrane, 39, has not been seen by his family since leaving home near Newmarket on the afternoon of

and everyone seems to be very

happy with him, but I ocver build

up my hopes too much for the

not overraced either and every-

thing he's showing at the mo-

ment suggests he still likes it.

This horse still competes, but

name was not among the 16 en-tries for the King George VI Chase announced yesterday. Maguire once opined that Among the more hopeful nominces were the Charlie Brooks Cochrane missing

might be stopped up to three

miles, but if the horse hasn't lost

The gelding will consequently go for Wetherby's Castleford

Chase after Sandown, and his

overall hegemony is to be timea-tended Roach believes it will be by a tyro. "He looks very well basket. "It was about two years Knight has the relatively inexperienced Oatis Regrets in mind for Kempton and Boxing Day. ago that Adrian thought he

The obvious market leaders appear to be Mr Mulligan, who reappears in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow on Saturday. Rough Quest, the Grand National hero, and last year's win-ner. One Man: Several students consider the last-named is being prepared with just one race - the Cheltenham Gold Cup in mind this season, but they are not the same folk who have the ear of the grey's trainer, Gordon Richards. "I want him to be

at his best when he goes to win the King George," Richards said vesterday. "I want to win that race and all I'm worried about is getting him there. What beats him there is a good KING GEORGE VI CHASE 'Kenyaton, 26 De

IGNAS GEORGE VI CHASE "Rempton, 25 De-centher. Enthies Algan transet by F Doumen, Ft, Barent Bank (D Noroston), Challenger Dr. Luc (M Piper, Couldre Se Better (C Brooks), Crystal Spect (I Balding), Kosk (D Noroston), Mr Malagen (N Channes), Makhten Carl (Mr.) Puman, Oata, Regress, Mass H Knight, Ore Man (G Richards), Rough Quest (T Carsey), Sound Man 12 O'Cardy (Id), Strong Pominia (B Hubbard), Sury Eavi (C Brooks), (Irring Again (D Gandolfin), Double Symphony (C Brouks).

1.50 JOHN O'GALINT MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m

2.20 SILVER BELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

215-232P CORT D'ESTRIANAL (15) EN 6 Balding 5 11 11 ... A Ritomton
2 15-232P CORT D'ESTRIANAL (15) EN 6 Balding 5 11 11 ... B Califord
3 223-122 PIREP'S WOODY (15)(0) N Handerson 8 11 5 J R Konstrugh
4 132(15) SERBING 1588T (15) EN CHARTES (17) 12 00 ... A Minguine
5 247-573 YECHIANE WORREROR (400) R Rose 9 10 6 ... D O'SWIRMER
6 22125 1 SARTORRES (150) (0) I Tromcon Jones 10 10 8 ... P News Y ... 6 declared ...

DETTRIC: 7-4 Salving Light, 3-1 Phillip's Woody, 9-2 Fiveleigh Builde, 5-1 Sartorles, 8-1 Yechian Warring, 8-1 Conft D'Estrianal

121-422 FMELERIN BURIOS (12) (D) Mass L V Plassed 9 12 0

Athletes make point on **Academy**

Sport politics MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Of the 26 contenders being considered as potential hosts of the British Academy of Sport. none can lay greater claim to representing the wishes of competitors than that entitled, ap-

propriately, the Athletes' Bid. The bid, which proposes alternative sites in Herilordshire. has gained the commitment of more than 100 past and present competitors in a range of sports after a widespread consultation exercise. Supporters include David Wilkie, Roger Uttley. David Gower, Scan Kerly, David

Hemery and Richard Nerurkar. The key elements which have emerged are a determination not to compromise the project with shared use of existing facilities, "That," the bid statement says, "is the greatest complaint about what we have now."

The bidding group plans to build a central training centre. which would co-ordinate work in regional centres, at a site either near Hatfield or Watford.

"We shouldn't be ashamed of the idea that we are going to concentrate on the elite." the former head of coaching for British athletics, Frank Dick, said. "We want to drag competitors up the extra couple of notches it needs to take on the rest of the world."

The hid began as a private venture two years ago and has since expanded in scope following the commitment of up to £100m of National Lottery money to the Academy. The estimated capital cust of this project is £107m, of which £38m would be raised by private sponsorship.

The idea that the Government, which has said it may adapt bid ideas piecemeal. might take on board the research gathered by the Athletes' Bid and apply it to another contender elsewhere in the country was accepted with equanimity by one of the steering group, Mike Corby, "We could well be a regional part of the whole scheme," he said, "We are happy to give everything we have for the good of the athletes in this country."

Two-day exam for **England A**

Cricket

England A will face one of their toughest tests of their Australian tour when they meet New South Wales in the first of two one-day matches at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

New South Wales, without the injured Mark Taylor, Mark and Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan, have still picked a side bristling with talent to face the touring team. The all-rounder Shane Lee and the attacking opener Michael Slater, both members of Australia's World Cup squad which lost in the fi-nal to Sri Lanka, are included alongside the former Test player Greg Matthews.

"We are approaching it as a two-match one-day series and winning both will greatly improve the opinion people have over here of English cricket," David Graveney, the manager, said.

Jason Gallian, the Lancashire opener unavailable with a cracked right index finger since 18 November, will have a net session prior to the match. but is more likely to return for the second one-day game in Wollongong on Saturday. The fast bowler Dean Headley will play after 10 days' rest but England will not finalise their line-up until today.

ENGLAND A (from): M A Butcher, M P Vaugh-an, J E R Gallan, A McGrath, O A Shah. "A J Hollicothe, M A Earlann, C White, 174 K, Heeg, A F Glies, G Chapple, D W Headley, P M Such,

A J Henris.

NEW SOUTH WALES: "G R 1 Matthews, T Baylas, I P A Emery, S Lee, B E McNamara, C J Richards, K J Roberts, G Robertson, M J Stater, A M Stuart, S M Thompson. Mike Veletta, the former Australian Test player, was yesterday suspended for a month following his outburst when he disputed an umpiring decision during Australian Capital Territory's drawn match with Eng-

land A in Canberra.



Dunwoody takes over on Teinein

_B Poyel

A gentleman's agreement with the trainer Paul Nicholls will prevent Tony McCoy from riding Teinein, the favourite for Saturday's William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown.

McCoy will instead ride Nicholls's Belmont King in Chep-stow's Rehearsal Chase and his substitute on Teinein will be a jockey called Richard Dun-

HYPERION

GOING: Hurdles — Good; Chases — Good (Good to Firm in places)

Figure-of-eight course. Level, with long straights and a 200yd nut-in.

Course is north of town on A305 near junction 6 of M4. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Waterloo) 1m. River bus stops at course. ADMISSION: Club 512: Tamersalls 58; Silver Ring 54. CAR PARK: Club 52; remainder \$1.50 or \$1.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: K Bailey — 11 winners from 53 runners gives a success ratio of 20.3% and a profit to a 21 level stake of 29.05; Mass H Knight — 8 winners, 52 runners, 15.4%, ~25.09; N Henderson — 7 winners, 38 runners, 18.4%, ~213.39; C Brooks — 6 winners, 18 runners, 33.3%, +24.00.

-23:39; C Brooks — 6 winters, 18 runners, 33:3%, 1-54,00.

I ISADNG JOCKEYS: N WIREMSON.

Witners, 50 rides, 16:3%, -16:4%, 16:3%, 1-51:25; M A Fitzgeraid — 7 winners, 43 rides, 16:3%, -210.7%; J Raditon — 7 winners, 50 rides, 11:3%, -25:28.

REGISTRONG FIRST TIME: Murphys Run (12:30); Dukes Meadow, Highland Jack (1:30); Rung Credo, Who's To Say (both visored) (2:30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nune.

LONG-DISTANCE GUNNERS: Registall Quay (1:30) sent 306 miles by Mass.) Da Piccais from Saltach, Cortwell: Septimole What (2:00) sent 173 miles by CR Barwell from Stoodsigh, Devon.

12.30 SPITAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added

JOVE RIME (A Egg) X Michalde 4 10 12 ...

MANSUR (Ed Michald) N Handerson 4 20 12 ...

MINESUR (Ed Michald) N Handerson 4 20 12 ...

203-PP MILEPHY'S RIM (LS) (Blein A Lemendon) P Eccles 6 10 12 ...

MISTER CHY LEASE DATA Thompson (X Balley A 10 12 ...

NIGHT CHY (Dease michandard Lambed) Lady Hames 5 10 12 ...

NIGHT FLARE (PR) (12) (Blein Flora Cartion's S Woodman 4 10 :

6013-36 SECORD STEP (LT) (BP) (A E Smith () Gandallis 5 10 12 ...

J. HAMBOR (STOR Philaters before Cartion's S Michael 12 ...

A. HAMBOR (STOR Philaters before Cartion's S Michael 12 ...

O. ILANDRA (370) (Cheignie Public Relations Ltd) R Alerburg 4 10 7 ___.

65 NOT TO PANIC (31) (Barry Hawkins) K Burlie 6 10 7 ____.

-15 decisred BETTING: 11-4 Night City, 4-1 Mansur, 5-1 Danegold, 11-2 Music Flense, 8-1 Sallep, 10-1 Haz-ani, 11-1 Parry Knight, 18-1 Second Step, 20-1 others 1996: Teinem 4 11 0 A P McCoy 4-1 (T Forsign) 12 can

FORM GUIDE

The few hurdiers Lady Hernes runs are generally classy sorts and NIGHT CITY could be in a different league to these, inexperence son't usually a problem with horses from the yard and Night City has some decent Flat form around the rune-hurlong mark to back his claims. Manteur contes here in good form of the Rist with two all-weather wins and a narrow detect in a 10-fairing Pointerfact hendrap behind him. None of the runs was anywhere near in Night City's class but this is a new game entirely and he should give a good first account. Flatly Kinight, who has also won twice on the Flat this year, is out again quickly after haven the first each of himselfest helmed the Warrar or Niewburn on Saturday. In frishing saw

ing his first taste of hurdling behind Hoh Warnor at Newbury on Saturday, in finishing sev-enth of 19 he ran with considerable promise and is likely to do a great deal better on this

that race run in a faster time. Hazarf has winning form on the flat in France and is sure to do better with that much-needed run in the bag. Sattley's experience should count for plenty, even if he is taking on stronger company this time.

Setection: NGHT CITY

1.00 PALEY STREET MARKES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,747

23451-5 SEASONAL SPLENDOUR (29) (0) (0 A Johnson) M Pipe 6 12 0 ______ A P MeCoy 52105-1. MEIGRETTA HOWARD (19) (0) (0 A Johnson) Dress) Mrs D Harre 6 11.9 ____ 8 Rogau (2) PLP-12 DARK MERTINGALE (30) (0) (8F) (Mss Le Carl / O Sherwood 6 11 0 ._____ J Cohomae 42-312. SEVERN GALE (21) (0) (4hs Card / Mert) J Mert 6 10 6 ._____ X Abpure (7) 25112-7 DARK SPORT GRE. (5) (0) (6) I Useadyn 8 Housilly 7 10 6 ._____ Miss E 1 Jones (1) 522422. PEDALTORIEMETAL (218) (6 R Harris) P Mischel 4 10 4 _____ 8 Toomey (3)

FORM GUIDE

Sousonat Splendour's two wins and good third in hot company behind Wisley Wonder and buttern Equitarine at Ascot test season are clear evidence she is much better than her run behind Cha-Yo at Haydock last month makes her out to be. She was more than five lengths behind that-placed Lord McKurrough on that occasion having been only a length adrift of him at Chettenham in April. That Heydock run, her first since early July, was probably needed. Seasonal Splendour should leave that a long way behind but a fine through Lord McMurrough brings HENGELTIA HOWARD into the picture. East season, Henrietta Howard showed progressive form over hundles after winning a NH Flat race first time out and continued her improvement with a comfortable so-length defeat of Lord McMurrough, with subsequent winner Tim seven lengths back in third, at Huntington (2m) on her reappearance. For a mare with plenty of stamma that was a good performance. Durk Nightingsie has had just about every wind operation going and she looked good when toying with Peter Monency over

about every wind operation going and she looked good when toying with Peter Monanny over this trip at Wincenton at the end of October, Her subsequent defeat by Sail By The Stars at Exister (2m3f) looks better after the winner went in again at Newton Abbot on Tuesday

1.30 WOODSIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3rs

- 11 decises - 10 resse - 10 resse - 10 resse - 10 resse - 10 resse - 11 resse - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 11 decises - 10

FLOW werk streight into a hendicap at Newton Abbot for her chasing debut and easily deleated subsequent winner Brambleina Buck. Flow stayed all day over hardles and had the testing conditions very much in her favour at Newton Abbot. She may not be anything sive at home over this shorter thin ing round bordering on rast in places, but either the way she won it's a chance worth taking. Highland Jack made the most of the 12th he was getting and the runner-up's last-fence blunder to bear Burnit at Wincarton on his reappearance. This looks file being Delete Mendow's brusest season — he's raced only once in each of the test three and was having his first outing in a year in a hundle race at Pumpton 17 days ago. That dight stop him from being well backed, and he'll stop a lot fitter this time. Garrettison is a young horse with scope who could be anything.

Selections FLOW

2.30 Dear Do

3.00 Merry Panto

3.30 Relative Chance

woody. The news of this booking did nothing to dissuade punters from backing Teinein and he is now 7-2, from 9-2, with

Ladbrokes, who now have the Tim Forster-trained favourite at from 14-1, and Silver Groom. who is 9-1 from 10-1.

14 decianed - BETTING: 5-2 Desert Green, 7-2 Battileship Bruce, Proton, 6-1 for A Dreamer, 7-1 Zajho, 8-1 Ottovio Fernote, 13-1 others 1986; see division one

Lady Herries introduces another of her decent fait handicappers in Zinjias, whose best re-cent form is his third of 25 in a £45,000 mile handicap at Ascot in September. He'd take all the besting if able to transfer that level of ability over to hurding. Desert Green is another error. Hat handicapper making his hurding debut. His best peformance this year as when winning Kempton's Jubilee Handicap for the second successive season and, like sta-

when wrining Kempton's Jubblee Hamdicap for the second successive season and, like sta-blemate Fairy Kingst in the earlier division, has no have every hope. PROTON's Fait form this year was largely disappointing —a close fifth over a mile and a half at Ascot in the sum-mer being about his best effort. That dut at least show he had estained his skilly and his stimute may give him more chance of a wrinting start then 2aylo and Dester Green. The A Dreamer rediscovered his 1994-5 from to beat what looked a fair field at Stratford at the end of May only to tim below that there three weeks later. Battlesslep Brace's second to Nashrawall here 19 days ago, atthough he was easily disposed of by the where, at least is the more recent and he may be the bigger danger.

Selection: PROTON

2.30 WRAYSBURY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m Penalty Value £3,592

1995: Dear Do 8 10 11 M A Program 100-30 (A Hendeson) 7 ran

PORTM GUIDO

ZEREDAR, a winner over hundles and fences in New Zaciand, overcame some noncay fencing to best Newlands-General at Worcester in October and was bound to have pulled a muscle when going for a quick follow-up at Warnot a week later. It was claim sailing with the essect of wins here eight days ago with bunkers on for the first time and it books as if he is ahead of the handleapper. Dear Do was left to chase home Newlands-General at a respectful distance at Fortwell on his reappearance and will be all the better for it. He has a lot more to do than when winning this roce last year off a rating 11th lower, but a more reflection of his ability is that he had Newlands-General back in third when beating better company at Ay in April and is enribled to make a race of it. Whithis To Say was still in with every chance when almost down at the final fence in Wise Approach's race at Chellenham (2m47) in October. He has probably his best chance in a while now he is back to the minimum min, though that is aways assuming his purpoing down at the store than once since he came from ireland. King Credo sin't getting any younger and may single with his big weight once the tap is turned on.

Selection: ZEREDAR

3.00 DORNEY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f Penaity Value £3,059

- 7 declared BETTING: 5-2 Coolings, 3-1 Act of Parliament, 7-2 Marry Panto, 5-1 Rex To The Restaus, Wilder

1985: Royal Square 9 10 3 Mis A Perrett 13-2 (6 Harwood) 5 can From GNDE.

The two racus Act Of Parliament has won over fences he has been allowed to dominate. He was never able to get away at Huntington 19 days ago and, with WRIATMS in the field, may not have things his own way early on. In his hunting days William was a front-numer and he made a great deal of the number whening a novel hendroap chase at Fromwell last time out. He has improvement to find, yet this being only his fifth race over fences that's more than possible – he is also just back from 14 months off – and he is at the right end of the handicup. Nex to The Rescue probably wasn't suited by the testing conditions at Newton Abbot last time but is fast running out of excuses. Two miles also seems his best tip. Cooken made instales at Craftenham kest time and wasn't able to take advantage of Dancing Vision being almost on the floor at the second last. His young noter had handled him so well when winning in sinuter company at Ludiov the time before, but a place may be the best they can hope for with such a big weight and Merry Parato looks a bigger danger. Merry Parato looks a bigger danger. Merry Parato hots a bigger dandors wet in his two runs back since then.

Selection: WILMINS

3.30 PANGBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 4f Penatty Value £2,101.

6000-64 DAHLM'S BEST (USA) (21) Ries, M Rowland, Mass M Rowland 6 11 10. 678213- CAMBO RISA) (192) (20) (4) Bante) M Bante JO 11 10 600275- SIPPER RICHART (17) (The Gedon Associate) B Paling 8 11 5 000-221. LETS BE FRANK (15) (Mas M M Sozbeth N Chapte 5 11 5

4 000-221 LETS BE FRANK (LS) (Nes M M Stabert) N Chance 5 11 5 M A
0006-7-3 AURIST TWELTER (Rg) (P) (O Theren D O'Bler 8 11 2 M
6 11345-2 RACHAEL'S GWEN (31) (De-Hard Racing Cuto) C Weeton 6 10 13 M
7 1500-21 DONITORESSFORDINGER (R) (C) (Donitoreschriftmer) R Horiges 6 10 12 J Des
8 26070-5 PRESE MANCE (RS) (D' John Heertrook) J Tuck 7 10 9
9 0P1367 PRESE MANCE (RS) (W Morgi M Harpes 6 10 8 M
10 03004-2 RELIQINE CHANCE (RS) (Mas S Dougles-Persynt)) Ning 7 10 6 N
11 22100-5 DURSHAM (RS) (R4) (CD) (Sudmore Turbud Desgri) J Janker 7 10 5 M
12 307-442 POLICESHAM (RS) (R9) (Ns) H Vest) M Madgeuch 7 10 4 M
13 F-POOL WILL IAMES (LS) (C) Okts Lerny Melbourns C Drave 10 10 0 M
14 declared Manimum weight: 10st. The handicap weight: WB James 95 5 55t.
8EETIME: 7-2 Domitimessfordinam, 6-1 Combo, 6-1 August Tweetth, Doblist's Bent, Lets B

SETTER: 7-2 Continessingisser, 5-1 Conto, 6-1 August Twelfib, Deblie's Best, Lets Se Presi, 9 1 Relative Chance, 18-1 Recised's Owen, 12-1 others

PORIN GUIDE

Donkthresefordinmer, caught on the post by Submids in a two-miler here test month, made amends over the same top at the last meeting by leading two out and beeting Par Of Jacks and AUGUST TWELFTH by four lengths and a neck. Being out of the handicap then, Dont-dressfordner meets August Twelfin 48 better, but the third, coming back after trending problems, was running on strongly in the closing stages and can turn the tables over this longer distance. Relative Chance has not been out strone putting in an emproved magazinst Snow Board over a furlong less at Easter in October, if he could stap up just a lattle on that he'd have a good chance at the weights. Like Relative Chance, Latts Be Frasik has improved for a longer top and was a convincing winner at Hereford (2m3f). He should again go closs, while Dalative Best did better as Towocster less time and is coming along.

Selection: AUGUST TWELFTH

SETTING: greens Zereder, 5-2 Dear Do. 3-1 Kmg Credo, 10-1 Why's To See

1995: Dear Do 8 10 11 M A Fitzgerald 100-30 (N Henderson) 7 ran

2/302-31 WILLIAMS (36) (Fied Homout) R O'Sultien 7 10 7

16-1 Call Me Early, 33-1 Whispers Delight 1995: Royal Square 9 10 3 Mrs A Parrett 13-2 (G Harwood) 6 can

night broke the record for a filly in training sold at auction when she was knocked down for 1.7m guineas at Tattersalls December Sales. She was bought by 3-1, also report strong support the French agent Guy Armag-for Direct Route, who is 8-1 nol on behalf of an American client and may be supplement-ed for the Dubai World Cup.

Luna Wells, the winner of the Group One Prix Saint-Alary, last

200 SPITAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,058

25 November.

Police were told of his disappearance the following day and have been trying to trace him. 23 October.

the missing-persons list of Cam- anything untoward," a spokesman for Cambridgeshire police The jockey, who rode 63 winners on the Flat this year, has been out of racecourse action

since suffering rib and head injuries in a fall at Yarmouth on

LEICESTER. HYPERION 12.20 Far Dawn 12.50 Sammartino 1.20 Mr Flutts 1.50 MASTER HOPE (nap) 2.20 Sartorius (nb) 2.50 L'Equipe 3.20 Dark Age GOUNG: Hundles course – Good to Soft (Soft in home streight); Chare course – Good (Good to Firm in places).

If Right-hand, undulating course, with a straight mile.

If Course is 2m SE of city off A6. Leicester rathway station (London, St Pancras – Stellield hos) over 2 rules away. ADMISSION: One enclassive E8 for actals (OAPs (E5), CAE PARE: Free. 9st 7b., Storpion Bay 9st 6b. BETTING 4-1 Str Pagennt, 9-2 jir Flutts, 7-1 Blanc Soing, 8-1 Kepul Jou, 10-1 Vaccount Tully, Cutsullint, 12-1 others

BLIMERIED FIRST THRE: Bright Sclipse (12.20); Fermant Con-tage (1.50); L'Equipe (2.60); Spearbead Again (1.50, vrsor). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Name. LONG-DESTANCE EURNEES: Previeigh Bulks (2.20) has been sem 314 miles by kiss L.V. Rassell from Maingthort, Tayride.

12.20 BEGINNERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,700 added 3YO 2m 1 FAR DANN (USA) (15) (D) Mas A Perett 11 5 ... C Manul 134 SQURE'S OCCASION (12) (D) R Alebust 11 5 .R Dannood ALBAHA (USA) J Barks 10 12 ... J R Kannang BRANNOV D LELING Strain 10 12 ... D Gallagh 29 BRISH ELLPEE (D) Mas N Whitehouse 10 12 ... T Junios F COME ON IN (15) R Daten 10 12 ... W Manul DESCRIPTION (15) R 10 12 ... W Manul

CORE OF WILLIAM COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF THE COMMINE OF T 15 SPERAL FLYER M Lither 10 7 - 15 doctored - 8ETTING: 6-4 Fev Dann, 7-1 Squire's Occasion, Star Bishu nov, Forest Boy, 10-1 Albaha, 14-1 others

12.50 KNIGHTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m

...A Thor REMEI R Highwat 7 to 12. ○ ROYRACE (25) W Birshoums ume 4 10 12 SAHEL (19) / Mutters 8 10 12 SAMMARTINO D Nicholson 4 1

50) ANOTHER FIDDLE (735) 8 Penne 6 10 12 AS Smith 3' BANKY MLL LAD (615) C Morbols 6 10 12 JR Kineausgi REGGSPS OPERA PRI Machel 4 10 12 W McFerland 53 FRSTNE GOLD (15) M Usher 4 10 12 W McFerland (CLASS G) £2,600 added 2m 4f 1.10yds

1.20 BARKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

2.50 WALTHAM CURDITIONAGE AND A COMPANY S WALTHAM CONDITIONALS' HANDICAP 040-121 MAZZINI (28) (D) R Rose 5 11 10 A Garrity (S) 0510- EURO SONGER (219) (D) P Westor 4 11 8 E Pentemo 40222: SHEPHEROS REST (204) (D) S Lielor 4 11 5 S Honton (S) 4-2131 CLOWING PAIN (15) (CD) P HOUSE 6 10 11 J Harrit 300 L'EQUIPE (19) C Marris (10 11 1 J Harrit 45) FERMIN COURT (20) Mass J Bower 5 10 6 Region 8 465153 FERMIN COURT (20) Mass J Bower 5 10 6 D Parter 12343 KRITIKA (S) (D) T Durnely 6 10 6 D Parter SEVEN CRO

3.20 SEGINNERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
(DIV II) £2,700 added 3YO 2m 10 SHEATH KEFAAH (82) (0) (8F)) Jerlans 11 5 G Bradley V PALAMON (USA) J White 10 12 ... RIS (USA) (41) C Proham 10 12 ____ C Ma LOCH DANCER WS H Macadey 10 14 ROW DEAL G Borrett 10 7 R Napsey (3)

- 14 declared
BETTING: 5-4 Circus Star, 7-2 Oach Age, 5-1 Palamon, 8-1 Soldier Mak,
12-1 Impending Dunger, 16-1 Shouth Nethanh, 20-1 others

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 12.10 Tatkia 12.40 Invocation 1.10 Chemcast 1.40 Sharp Consmand 2.10 Night Wink 2.40 Share Delight 3.10 Mystery Matthias 3.40 Colosse

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 51 & 1m - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 52. E.43-band, sharp course (Equitirack surface).

Gomes is south-cast of town on ECCS. Lingdeld station (served by Lordon Victoria) additions course. ADMISSION: Members \$13, Family Enclosure \$2. CAR PARE: Club \$3; remainder free.

BLINEERED FIRST TDAR: Heavy The Fifth (12.10); Sun Rocket. (1.40)

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Napler Star (1.10)

won at Wolverhampton on Sacurday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Double Blue (12.10) sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middletam, North Yorkshire. 12.10 ROBROT JERSEY CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,400 added 1m

000000 SARUM (59 (CD) | Long 10 8 12 Leges Long 1 560105 TATIMA (42) (2) G Wage 68 12 G Million (7) 4 443000 (SBRY THE FIRST (CF) (F) C BRITISH 3 8 11 M Floberts 5 NATATION (CF) Toller 3 8 11 Section 5 200540- DOWDERCY (382) R Wester 4 8 7... 4 PERVING POLLY (41) Lord Humangton 487 ____DR RAPHEALI J Arnold 3 8 6 _____C SETTRIC 5-2 Talks, 7-2 Double Blas, 9-2 Sentico, 5-1 Heavy The Fifth, mg Polly, 14-1 other

| 12.40 | EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS | HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,950 Gf | 404355 | MOORE POINT (LE) (CD) A MOORE 9 10 0 | Dame Official 5 | 005000 | MEMER TRINGS (S) (Q) K MOOR 3 9 6 | A Moore 7 8 | 3 | 200000 | SHARI (LE) | Car 3 9 4 | A Glade 9

1.10 EQUITABLE HOLDINGS PLC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 5f CGC VINL DO (52) In Meads 3 10 0 ______ D Sweinny (7) 1 040501 KALAR (13) (CD) D Chapmar 7 9 12 _____ A Culture 3 8 643001 CHEMICAST (20) (CD) I L Syn 3 9 12 _____ R Linguin 5 212223 (MOTHER BACCHROSTIM (20) (5) (55) E Wheeler 4 9 12 ____

9 (1934 FERNENSKELME (20) (1) Mest Schal 598.0 P. McCobn 6V 02(50) LA BELLE DOMBNOUT (5) (1) S hright 4 8 12 __ S Growne 7 0 (10000 WINDRISH BOY (13) (1) | Bodey 6 8 8 ._____ C Partier 2 10 (5-0000 GRACOUS GESTLOS (1) P.D. Serts 3 8 8 ._____ G Carter 9 in 050000 GRACIOUS GREATERS Ser, 7 - 10 declared - 10 declared - SETTIME: 3-1 Chemicast, 7-2 Napier Star, 5-1 Science Ridge, 7-1 Natur, 7-2 Napier Star, 7-2 Napier Sta

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- 12 BESTERG: 7-4 Uses Major, 3-1 Share Delight, 7-2 Incoline, 8-1 Forgotter Times, 12-1 Formitable Spirit, Eleptorial Partial, 14-1 others

3.10 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HAND-ICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,950 added 6f

- 13 deciared -SETTING: 5-1 Miss Pickpocket, 6-1 Tachycentin, Mystery Matibles, 7-1 Dencing Jack, Southers Role, 8-1 Dark Menace, Sensolem, 10-1 others 3.40 THIRTY NINE STEPS (AMATEURS) HAND-ICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 4f

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12.20: 1. PRIDDY FAIR (Achard Quest) 16.1; 2. Fro 9-2; 3. Topoglow 7-2. 10 ran. 5-2 faw Tarry (4th). 1½, 4. (D Berker, Rotmond). Tobus: £111-19: £4.70. £2.40, £1.80, DF: £193.50. CSF: £90.64. True: not won. Non Rumber Just Rosy, 12.50: 1. RUSSIAN RASCAL IR Gamby) 6-4 fay; 2. Eric's Bett 20-1; 3. Noir Esprit. 12.1 11 man. 3.9. (T Eastbort). Misbro. Tobus

12-1, 11 ren, 3, 9, (T Easterby, Mistori), Total: £2-30; £1-20, £4.40, £3.40, DF: £28.40, CSF; £30,17, Tho: £137.30.

CSF: £30.17. Into: £137.30.

1.20: 1.TP IT IN IN Hornoise; 5-1: 2. Ratina 11-4; 3. Sadden Spin 7-1. 11 ran. 9-4 hav Supertop (Stith. 11. I. A. Smith, Beneriop), Tote: £7.60; £2.50, £1.80, £3.50, DF: £12.00. CSF: £19.94. Incast: E92, 77, Trio: £39.50. 1.50: 1, REVE DE VALSE (K. Johnson) 7. 1: 2. Uncle Bert 9-2; 3. Full O'Praise 3-1

Tax. 7 ran. 7, 12. IR Johnson, Newburn). Total: £9.40; £3.30, £1.90. DF: £12.10. CSF: £35.08. Tricast: £103.75. Non Rumner; Master Satesman.

2.20: 1. FLYAWAY BILDES (P Niven) 3-1 lor. 2. Chumany 1 Saga 10-1: 3. Little Redwing 12-1: 4. Aide Memoire 20-1. 22 ron. ni. 7, (little M Paretry, Saltham). Tote: £4.20: £2.30, £2.90, £2.80, £3.20. DF: £37.90. CSP: £36.31. Tricast: £327.10. Tric £111.80. Mem Bunner Beint Your Wherm.

RACING RESULTS

2.50: 1. KENMORE-SPEED (Rechard Guest) 6-4 tav; 2. Gale Abead 6-1; 3. Off The Bru 9-1. 10 tan. 2. 11. (Mrs S Smith; Binger, Totae E2-10; 11.40; £1.70, £3.00. DF: £13.50. CSF: £13.58. Threast: £76.33. (no: £46.20. Mrs island Chref. 3.20: 1. LAGEN Brudge [D] Moffaul) 25-1; 2. 8 The One 7-4 kay; 3. Feithful Hand 9-4. 12 ran. 1, 24. (D Moffaul), Cartirell, Totae; £12.30; £2.90, £2.40, £1.00. DF: £15.80. CSF: £73.42. Trot: £21.30.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £16,876.16 car-ned forward to Lecester today), Placespot: £364.30. Quadpot: £17.50. Place 6: £215.64. Place 8: £87.72. FONTWELL

12.40: 1. SERBALS (I R Kavanagh 3-1; 2. Academy House 4-5 fav; 3. Bon Bone-don 8-1.11 ran. 14. 7. (N Handerson, Lam-boum). Totac £3.90: £1.40. £1.10. £1.40. DF: £2.40. CSF: £5.45. Trio: £2.50. 1.10: 1. ZESTI (N Mann) 5-1; 2. Lanesra Broeze 33-1; 3. Water Hazard 7-L 11; ran. 5-2 fav Memory's Music (fea). 8, 1%. (T Clement, Newmarket). Tota: £4.50; £1.40. £12.40, £2.20. DF: £70.20. CSF: £114.15. Tino: £209.80 (part won, pool of £258.94 to Leicester 1.20 (pday). NR: Fruit Town. 1.40: 1, DUNE OF APPOLION IP Hide) 5-

12-1 10 ran. 18, %. U Giford, Findom). Total: 22.80; £1.10. £2.40; £2.70. DP. £7.10. CSF: £14.35. Tricast: £112.69. Tric: £28.80.
2.10: 1. SUPPREME LADY U OSDOPHO) 9-4 lay, 2. from N Cold 7-2. 2. Symaghian's Point 10-1. 8 ran. 11, 1. (Alex H Kright, Wantage). Total: £2.00; £1.70; £1.10, £2.80. DP. £4.40. CSF: £9.89. Tricast: £58.08.
2.40: 1. MIRADOR (D Waish) 13-8 fay, 2. Darling Ning 10-1: 3. Pavilove 10-1. 8 ran. 8, 3%. R Curtis, Epsom). Total: £1.90; £1.10, £2.30. £2.50. DF. £18.30. CSF: £17.02. Tricast: £115.23.

8 fax: 2. Parehandy 13-2; 3. Grey Gorden 6-1. 8 ran. 4, 14, IP Naticils, Shepton Ma-

let). Tota: £1.90; £1.40, £1.20, £1.70. DF: 10). 1002: £129; £1.40, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £7.00. £5F: £5.70. 3.40: £1. ÆLALI (D Galagner) £1.4; 2. \$10 ren. 4, 37; £1 blumy \$1.1; 3. Province \$-4 tay. 10 ren. 4, 37; £1 blumy \$1.70, \$1.00 ren. 4, 57; £1.40. \$1.50. £1.40. DF: £14.90. CSF: £26.61. Trip: £10.00. Placepot: £120.30. Quadpot: £11,70. Place 8: £19.58. Place 5: £18.07.

SOUTHWELL

1.00: 1. LANCE ARMSTRONG (A Magazet 4-6 fav. 2. Dry Hiti Lad 12-1; 3. Red Tel 4-

Computer Straight Forecast: £10.48. Tric: £19.10.

1.30: 1. SURREME FELLOW (M.A. Fitzgerad) 9-4 Jt fax; 2. Forestal Invitation 9-4 Jt fax; 3. Lobster Cottage 9-2. 9 ren. 8, 23. (M. Hertistson). Tobe: £3.60; £3.60, £1.00, £3.10. Dust Forecast: £6.90. CSP: £8.27. Troc: £16.60.

2.00: 1. STAY WITTH BAF (Mr. P. Thorston).

100: £16.60.
2.00: 1. STAY WITH BIE (Mr R Thorston)
5-2; 2. Shifting Moon 14-1; 3. Pater Moseway 7-2. 6 ran. 2-1 few King Adrelston, 10, 4. (C Egerton), Toker £3.20; £1.80, £4.80.
DF: £14.80. CSP: £27.88. 2.30: 1. 00EAN LEADER (A Megurel 7-4 tor, 2. Record Lover 16-1; 3. Lucky Dol-ler 3-1. 8 ran. 3, 14, days D Haring), Toda E2-90, £2.20, £2.00, £1.00. DF; £14.80, CSF, £27.18, Tricast; £17.82, Tric. £16.30, Mb December 1 NR: Sweet Buck. 8.00: 1 NETHERBY SAID (A S Smith) 7-

2: 2. Copper Cable 25-1; 3. Houghton 12-1. 5 rain. evens lav Zambez Spirit, won by a distance. 3%. (Mas M Magan). Tota: £5.40; £4.40, £6.80. Dual Forecast: £30.70. CSF: 3.30: 1. FAWLEY FLYER (J Power) 7-2: 2. Desert Force 7-4 for; 3. We're in The Money 33-1. 9 ran. 1, dist. (W Turner), Total: 64.60; £1.30, £1.40, £11.50, DF, £2.20. CSF; £9.71, Tricest: £153.36.

Those who bask in the false light of football's 'new writing' are blind to the fact that a hard game is being played out there

game, the best advice a young foot-baller can take on to the field is that no opponent should ever be trusted. I heard it first from a real hard case, a Welsh international everlastingly embarrassed by the dis-ablement once inflicted upon him by a man of quite gentle persuasion.

In moments of deep reflection, which was usually after a pint or two, he would point to a scar just below his right knee and say, "Imagine get-ting that from a player who probably hadn't kicked anybody before and hasn't since. But the bastard saw his chance, caught me off guard. Take it as a lesson and you are less likely to end up on a stretcher." Recent incidents make naïve the notion that brotherly love is on the

upswing and football is becoming a happier world to live in, with or with-out banged-up knees, stud-scarred ankles, cracked cheekbones and similar marks of the man of culture. In their eagerness to pile up knowledge about formations and tactics, many students of football to-

day, especially those who bask in the false light of its "new writing", ap-pear blind to the fact that a hard game is being played out there. Character, courage and similar goodies are shorthand for relentless aggressiveness, for being a tough competitor. The majority of players. I think, would draw the line at being aggressive to the point of not caring whether they hurt oppo-

nents, but in keeping with history some should be approached with the

out how fast he can limp" are still

Pragmatism prevails in football. There is no future in violent play but the injection of "nastiness" that one Premiership manager speaks of privately as essential to his team's progress gets closer to the truth than

many people imagine.
When the greatest of all footballers, Pele, was first introduced to Brazil's national team, its coach, Vicente Feola, warned that he would not always be able to rely on referees for protection and had better start looking out for himself. Pele could never be described as a dirty player and did not chase trouble but opponents provoked him at their peril. Some years later in Rio, when



player, he broke the leg of a violent German defender, Szmaniak. When considering the wickedness that football manages to conceal (even under the close scrutiny of television), it is natural to think of defenders; defenders make the majority of tackles and therefore commit most of the fouls. Closer examination, however, reveals that an instinct for getting his retaliation an instinct for getting his retaliation in first did not make Pele unique

among outstanding attackers.

Shortly before the 1978 World Cup final between Argentina and the Netherlands in Buenos Aires, I spent an afternoon with Rene van der Kerkhof, whose brother Willy was also in the Dutch team. Speaking in fluent English about various aspects of the tournament, he came across as a thoroughly pleasant and mature young man.

Van der Kerkhof could scarcely avoid being angered by the squalid gamesmanship Argentina employed two days later, taking the field five barely 10 minutes after the kick-off, driving his boot into the chest of an

Argentinian defender. Norman Hunter tackled his way into legend for Leeds United but greater peril lay in confrontations with a tiny Scottish international inside-forward, Bobby Collins, and John Giles, who appeared many times in that position for the Republic of Ireland. Making defenders think twice about going for them, theirs was a philosophy echoed by Denis Law, Francis Lee. Mike Summerbee, Allan Clarke, Peter Osgood, Kenny Dalglish and throughout the world. Scars remind some of Gerson's contemporaries in Brazil that his creative genius concealed alarming vicious_{æga}n's

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Watching football today, British football particularly, you are aware of the danger in innocence. This springs, I think, from inadequate tuition (defensive play generally is poor) and the absence of experi-enced players from reserve-team football. A renowned tackler in his day, Nobby Stiles maintained that he learned most about the game from playing with and against vet-eran professionals when turning out in the Central League for Manchester United. A safe bet is that he too was advised not to trust anybody.

Case shut out at **Brighton**

Football

ANDREW MARTIN

The malaise at Brighton & Hove Albion deepened yester-day when the Nationwide League's bottom club sacked their manager, Jimmy Case.

Unrest off the field has been cause his wife, Andrea, is ill. matched by a dire record on it. Case guided Brighton to only three victories this season and Brighton supporters protested again during Tuesday night's 3-2 home defeat to second-frombottom Darlington, in the latest of a series of demonstrations against the club's board.

They are upset at the sale of to ground-share with Gillingham next season.

The club's chief executive, would now be advertising for a successor to Case, who had been in charge at Brighton for a year. Bellotti. speaking on Radio 5 Live, said a number of possi-

place had called the Goldstone Ground offering their services. Denying it was a job no one last few hours there have been a number of managers who are out of work, who have spoken to me, and who would like to

consider coming to Brighton."
The Middlesbrough chairman, Steve Gibson, has made it clear that the unsettled Emerson would not be allowed to leave the club. Gibson said the £4m Brazilian midfielder has been fined six weeks' salary - around £50,000since he joined the club on a fouryear contract in the summer.

sition is clear. Emerson cannot be allowed to leave. If he doesn't comply he will lose everything

and it will cost him his career." Emerson has not yet informed Boro when he intends to return from Brazil but reports from South America indicate that he has been delayed be-

Jack Charlton, the former Republic of Ireland manager, has rejected an offer to become disaw his side knocked out of the rector of football at First Divi-FA Cup by non-League Sudbury. sion Grimsby. The club's Brighton supporters protested chairman, Bill Carr, said that Charlton did not want the "dayto-day pressure of running a club again". Mike Newell is set to join

Bolton from Birmingham City after the clubs agreed a the stadium and the club's plans \$700,000 fee in time for the former Blackburn striker to be available for the weekend.

Liverpool are ready to sign David Bellotti, said Brighton the Gothenburg striker Andreas Andersson for £2m. The manager, Roy Evans, watched the Swedish international play in the Champions' League last night. The Anfield club have ble contenders to take Case's also thwarted an attempt by the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, to add their assistant manager. Doug Livermore, to the national

> Southampton are to appeal over the sending-off of Ulrich Van Gobbel at Blackburn. The Dutch defender was dismissed in a 2-1 defeat for a second bookable offence following a tussle with Chris Sutton.

Rangers are on the brink of recruiting the Chile striker Sebastian Rozental from Universidad Catolica for £3.75m. The 20-year-old is set to leave for Scotland after Chile's World Cup qualifier against Argenti-Gibson said: "The club's po-

88 X EXTRA "HI-SPEC GSG KEYN COLUMS I ISSOCIAM EH SMITH THE MILES

Newts and all: A training session at Keys Park for Hednesford Town players before Saturday's FA Cup trip to Blackpool

Pitmen primed for upward progress



Who said foot-Park. Hednesford Town's home of 18

regaled tales of foreign travel, endangered wildlife, inflammable gas and odorous Italians.

That's not the half of it. The GM Vauxhall Conference club are both managed and coowned by a self-confessed buily who is also Steve Bull's accountant. They play in a stadium built on stilts. So when they visit Blackpool on Saturday - their first appearance in the second round of the FA Cup in a 116-year history - we should perhaps expect the un-

expected. Much of Hednesford's distinctive character stems from their larger-than-life manager, John Baldwin, who gives the lie to the old Monty Python putdown: "I'm an accountant and consequently too boring to be of interest."

With hindsight, the 400-mile round trips he made from university on Tyneside to keep goal for his local team were the foreplay to an enduring passion.

That was in the early 1970s, when Hednesford propped up the Midland League and played to 200 people against the likes of Bridlington and Belper. Baldwin remained involved "on and off" until he took over in 1990, by which time they were struggling to stay in the Midland Division of the Beazer Homes (now Dr Martens) League.

Hednesford were approachball folk were ing the end of the lease on their one-dimension- old ground, Cross Keys. Baldprompted the chairman, Mike Smith, to invite him to negotiate its sale. He became vicemonths, is to be chairman, put up the money to with buy a plot of land to develop a venue which met the Conference

> Except that it was not quite so simple. "It became evident that the money wouldn't be enough," Baldwin recalled. "So I asked a client of mine. Steve Price, to come in with me as ioint owner with a 50 per cent share holding. We make all the decisions together, though I wouldn't say he's never regret-ted it. We often look at each other and say: 'Why did we do this?' We must be stark raving

criteria, and the rest is history.

They do it because they have a vision that is coming into ever sharper focus: Football League status. Fanciful as the dream of derbies against Wolves and West Brom may sound, Hednesford finished third last season with the highest points total ever by a promoted club, and are again respectably placed. They have a base sup-port of 1,200 in the former mining community (hence the "Pitmen" nickname) and plans to upgrade an already impres-

Surely their current level is as high as they can hope for? "If I thought that," said Baldwin, "I'd pack it in now. Unfortunately, people in this town are not as positive or ambitious as me. So many of them told me: You'll never win the Beazer **Phil Shaw** hears how Hednesford

iown are preparing for a Cup challenge Premier.' I said 'We will.' Then

they said: 'Even if you do, the ground won't be up to scratch for the Conference. And I said: 'It will.' Then they said: 'Anyway, it won't be ready in time.' And I said: 'It will.'

"I'm a bit of a bully, and I like to get my way, but all this [we are sitting in a plush bar in the substantial stand has come about through incredibly hard work and a lot of money. Plus

Hednesford have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over alleged irregularities in a ground improvemen grant application, following a complaint made by the Sports Grounds Initiative, the funding body administered by the Football Trust. The alleged offence is not thought to be serious.

the fact that I've got the most understanding wife in the world. My business takes 40 hours a week, Hednesford takes 50 hours. I don't think I have been home this week."

His unusual dual role means that the emotions are magnified. "When we play poorly here, I go away wondering about how many people we're going to get the next week and whether they'll be enough to pay the players. A normal manager doesn't worry about that. "On the other hand, there gets the same feeling I get when we win... or as depressed as me when we lose."

is winnable, despite the fact that Hednesford's only success in knock-out competition came in reaching the Welsh Cup final in 1992. "Don't ask me what a Staffordshire club was doing in that, but we played before 12,000 people at Cardiff Arms Park, which was a catalyst for our success since.

"A Second Division side should beat us nine times out of 10. But I look at Woking winning at Millwall, or the way we nearly lost at Wednesfield in the first qualifying round even though they're four leagues below us. That's the Cup for you. We're certainly not going there for a day out at the seaside." Hednesford's preferred re-

sort is, in fact, Torremolinos. For the past two years, as "a reward and spirit-building exercise", they have taken a mid-season break in the Spanish sunshine. When we arrived at the hotel pool the youngest couple there were in their late 70s. Suddenly there were these 20 macho blokes jumping around. We had to play a local team to sober the lads up before we flew

Talking of newts, Hednesford must be unique in having to employ someone to catch them. "We were three-quarters of the way through building a dam to help with sewerage on the site when a council official drove up and said: 'Stop! You can't do any more building. A ranger has spotted a greater crested newt.'

pointed into the distance and said: There, but you're within half a mile of it.' So we've had Has be found any yet? "No. but it still cost us £1,000."

And the gas? Hednesford's ground is built over an old quarry, into which the National Coal Board used to tip waste materials. In order to avoid a potentially dangerous build-up of methane, the stadium is built on a raised platform so that the air can disperse it.

Yet for all their quirkiness, Hednesford are deadly serious about Saturday. Blackpool will find well-organised opponents with pacy strikers and a useful pedigree; players such as Colin Lambert, who helped Macclesfield and Halifax put out League sides in recent seasons, and the former Aston Villa defender Andy Comyn.

Now 28. Comyn spurned the offer of a contract with West Brom last summer so that he could nursue a career in... accountancy. The physics graduate now works for Baldwin on and off the park, but looks back fondly on a Villa debut marking John Barnes and a place in the team who beat Internazionale at Villa Park in the Uefa Cup in 1990. The opposition included

Klinsmann, Matthäus, Brehme and Zenga, and Comyn was delighted to swap sweat-soaked shirts with Aldo Serena. The only problem, he explained with Baldwinesque zeal, had been persuading his wife not to ruin its authenticity by washing

Japan to stage World **Cup final**

Fifa, world football's governing body, is set to confirm the sport's worst-kept secret on Saturday when it formally annouces that Japan will host the World Cup final in 2002.

It will also confirm that South Korea, jointly hosting the tour-nament with their Asian neighbours, will stage the opening match of the finals in six years'

Fifa attempted to keep secret recommendations of the World Cup 2002 Study Group amid farcical scenes in Zurich a month ago, when its vicepresident, Lennart Johansson. fold 100 reporters that no information about the finals would be announced until this weekend.

However, most of the details Fifa wanted to keep secret until endorsed by this weekend's executive committee meeting leaked out of Asia within hours.

A 33-point agenda will be set before the executive committee which is meeting, somewhat ironically, in Barcelona - where Spain won the 1992 Olympic

football tournament. The irony will not be lost on the Spaniards because Fifa is considering a proposal to abolish the tournament, which predates the World Cup by 30 years and was for three decades ded as the unofficial world

championship. Among many other items. Fifa will be looking at ground safety, players' agents and a new initiative for the World Club Cup, which has been played between the champions of Europe and South America 35 times

since 1960. There is a possibility that the champion clubs of other confederations, including Asia. Africa and North America, could take part in an expand-

ed tournament. Two days before Fifa is due to meet in Barcelona, the executive committee of European football's governing body, Uefa, holds its own session in

Tenerife. Uefa officials, like Fifa's, are expected to give their proposals for changes in the transfer system in the wake of last year's Bosman ruling, the future of national teams and of domestic

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The European body will also announce the venues for this season's European Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup finals and that the Czech Republic will represent Europe at next year's inaugural Confederations Cup for national teams in Saudi Arabia.

Germany, who should represent Uefa as the reigning European champions after their victory over the Czech Republic at Wembley this summer. have made it clear they will not compete in the tournament during their league season's mid-winter break

Uefa will also hear a proposal from the German Football Association that the number of qualification matches for the 2000 European Championships should be cut, leaving more ternational friendlies.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 47

he total number of players who have been named to play in the three England A rugby union games against the touring sides of Argentina, South Africe A and Queensland naxt week.

Robson seeks **smarter Boro**

As haptisms to the arcane world of football management go, Bryan Robson's must rank as one of the least comfortable. The bright new Riverside Stadium has lost some of its sheen of late as the Middlesbrough team Robson spent some £20m to assemble has slumped to a 10-game winless run. With Boro within two points of the relegation places, Captain Marvel has every right to feel distinctly sour. Yet Robson remains confi-

dent that his bejeweled squad can turn things around if they show the very qualities - brains allied to brawn - that made the former England and Manchester United dynamo such an outstanding player during his own career on the pitch.

'I can't fault the players' attitudes but they've got to start thinking about the game more," said Robson, who saw his side falter against a determined Leicester on Tuesday night.

"It's not just about putting in effort and commitment. Sometumes you've got to have knowledge of the game, like understanding when you should quicken the pace or slow it down." he said.

"We're going to have to try and remedy that in training and hopefully, I'll have some of our more experienced players back soon, because experience

To cap Robson's problems on the field, the distraction of the unsettled Brazilian, Emerson, has been equally irksome off it.

The peripatetic midfielder has

again gone missing, and Rouson

will, as reported, arrive back on Teesside today. Middlesbrough's

Brazilian, Juninho, is also missing - through an injury to his ankle that will keep him from the playing field for up to three weeks. Juninho's influence this season has been as telling as Emerson's, particularly his link play with Fabrizio Ravanelli. His loss will be deeply felt as will that of the captain, Nigel Pearson (neck), Steve Vickers

(knee) and Alan Moore

(hamstring). Robson said he was unsure of when Emerson would finally arrive back in England after going absent for the third time in three weeks, but it is believed the Brazilian is now ready to return after nursing his wife, Andrea, back to health after worries that she was about to

suffer a nervous breakdown. Far from being on the verge of medical attention himself, Robson is putting a brave face on a difficult situation.

We've got to show a little bit more fight and character and start to come back when we go behind. We haven't shown that for a long time now," he added. If Boro required a lesson in how to nurture that singleminded spirit, they need look no further than Leicester, who

miership following their third away win of the campaign. Martin O'Neill's team was pieced together at a fraction of the cost of Robson's, and the Middlesbrough manager must be acutely aware of the old adage that money does not alwill be hoping that Emerson ways buy happiness.

moved up to 12th in the Pre-

Yesterday

or: Bioclipsol 2 Plymouth 2; Brendond County 0; Bristol City 1 Wetford 1; Bun Wesham 0; Bury 3 Presion 0; Cheste Petarborough 1; Gillingham 2 Crewe 2 York 0; Rotherham 0 Stockport vision: Samet O Leyton Orient C: Bitghton 2 Daningson 3: Cembridge Lind 2 Mansheld 1; Cardin 1 Suensee 3; Cinester 1 Fuham 1; Exter 1 Hesp-ford 1: Lincoln 1 Cardine 1: Northempton 2 Hull 1; Scarborough 1 Colchester 1; Scurthorpe 2

FOOTBALL RESULTS FA UnitBNO TROPHY Third qualifying round re-plays: Barrow O Bradford Park Avenue 1; Lan-caster 4 Worksop 2; Yeading 3 Strongbourne 1 caster 4 Workson 2: Yearing 3 Sittingbourse 1.
FA CARLSBERG VASE Second round: Hallom 1. Sandwell Borough 1. (act).
DR MAKTENS LEAGUE Premide Division: Post-possed: Sudbury Town v Gressys Rovers.
UNBBOND LEAGUE First Division: Light 2 Curson Anton D: Workington O Netherfield 3. Second-round replays Gairsborough Trinty 1 Leafu 0. Third rounds: Colwyn Bay 3 Winstord 2.
CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHELD Second rounds: Chrimny Corner 0 Ballymera 2; Custalors O Distillery 0 (2) Lisuaders un 7-8 on or priss).
LEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Pro March 1 Sohem 1.

> UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Joint O'Mara Langue Cup second-round replay? Peacohywen & Telecombe 2 Eastbourne Ltd O. WITTERLINK EXPRESS MICHAEL SUSPENSION OF TOUR SUSPENSION OF STANDARD AUGUST STANDARD AUGUST STANDARD SUSPENSION OF STANDARD SUSPENSION OF Villa 4 (acc).
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> MORTIN WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Burschugh 1 Danven Or Glossop North End O Mostsby D: Newscafe Town O Prescot catries 4: Trafford 1 Vauchall GM 1. SCREDWIK DIRECT LEAGUE Pressive Division: Torrington O Taunton 6 (aberndoned 33/min). JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Thatcham 2 Brockenhust O.

Sheffield United kept up the pressure on the Nationwide goals in four minutes. UNILIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE John

Blades looking sharp as the "fourth-choice penalty-taker", missed from the spot: his

League First Division leaders, Bolton Wanderers, by beating their Yorkshire rivals Huddersfield Town 3-1 on Tuesday thanks to a first-half spell of two Huddersfield drew first blood

in the 14th minute when Andy Payton scored his ninth goal of the season, but Howard Kendall's men surged back with strikes from Lee Sandford and Mark Patterson giving them the lead before David White killed off Town shortly after the restart.

The Blades moved up to second after their win, moving above Barnsley, who were held 0-0 by Birmingham at St Andrew's Steve Bruce, described

by his manager, Trevor Francis.

effort was saved by the Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson as the home side wasted numerous chances to win the game. Transmere looked anything

but promotion candidates as they surrendered tamely 2-0 to Reading at Elm Park. Reading took the lead after 10 minutes when their joint player-manager, Mick Gooding, sent an ac-curate corner to the edge of the six-yard box, where James Lambert flicked a neat header past

goalkeeper Eric Nixon.
The Royals secured the points after 33 minutes when Paul Bodin's curling free-kick was met by Stuart Lovell, whose header was helped over the line by Trevor Morley.

Wycombe produced the best Second Division result of the night to lift themselves off the bottom of the table and knock Millwall off the top. Mike Bell's 77th-minute strike at Adams Park was enough to send Jimmy Nicholl's side to their fourth defeat of the season.

Brentford are the new leaders following a 2-0 win over struggling Notts County, which extended their unbeaten League run at Griffin Park to 11 matches. Goals either side of half-time from Marcus Bent and Carl Asaba were enough to condemn the Magpies to their seventh away defeat this term.

Rotherham United's 1-0 home defeat to Stockport means the Millers now prop up the Second Division.

حكدًا من الاعل

Keegan's Trent trip is stark lesson

Football SIMON TURNBULL

Perhaps it is just as well that the most immediate challenge facing Kevin Keegan and his outof-sorts Newcastle United team happens to be a fixture against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Monday night.

It is not merely that the Magpies have stooped so low, in terms of their recent form, that a trip to the Premiership's basement club promises to provide a much-needed pick-meup. The visit will offer a reminder of the harsh realities of life in the latter stages of European competition.

Forest, it seems strange to recall, were Uefa Cup quarterfinalists last season. They overcame French opponents to reach the last eight, but after beating Lyon and then escaping from the lion's den of the Olympic Stadium with only a 2-1 defeat, Frank Clark's men were mauled 5-1 by Bayern Munich on the banks of the Trent.

Having been outclassed for 80 minutes on Tuesday night by a Metz team that rates as not even second division in the grand European scheme of things, a sobering measure of trepidation has entered Newcastle's thinking towards their Continental adventure. As Keegan put it: "You look at the teams left and you know if we play that badly again we'll go out. For long periods against Metz we were about as bad as we can be."

Keegan at least has three months in which to revitalise his uncharacteristically languid side before the first leg of the quarter-finals. In midfield in particular, the creative spark has gone missing since the scorching victories against Manchester United and Ferencyaros in October.

The draw in Geneva next Wednesday will, alongside Newcastle's, feature the names of Internazionale, Monaco, Brondby. Schalke 04, Valencia, Tenerite and Anderlecht.

Tenerife might suit Keegan. The Spaniards are coached by Jupp Heynckes, who could be excused for conceding defeat at the very sight of Newcastle's manager. He was in the Borussia Mönchengladbach teams beaten by Liverpool, and the inspirational Keegan, in the Uefa Cup final of 1973 and in the Champions' Cup final four years later. Anderlecht, though, would hold the least fears for New-

2-1 in Brussels in August. Whoever they face. Newcas tle will have to play the first leg without the man who scored the goals against Metz, Faustino Asprilla having been yellow-carded after removing his shirt and boisting it on a corner flag in celebration. The Colombian also pulled out of his country's World Cup qualifier in Venezuela next week after suffering a hamstring injury in Tuesday's match.

Maybe sometimes we should give a yellow card to the ref," David Ginola said, "We have to live with celebration. That is life. Life is too miserable sometimes." It certainly has been on Tyneside of late.

Smith may lead British Whitbread challenge

STUART ALEXANDER

A multi-million pound Britishbased challenge for next September's Whitbread roundthe-world race is expected to be announced within the next few

The tobacco company, Gallaher, is thought to be planning a project, costing at least £5m, which could include the reboat would be called Silk Cut. which is one of the leading

brands produced by Gallaher in the United Kingdom.

The deal would be an important boost to British sailing, which in recent years has struggled to find adequate financial support to fund entries in major international events such as the Whitbread and the America's Cup.

A major complication in the plan, however, is that Smith is already the skipper of an entry for next year's Whitbread. In cruitment of the leading British skipper, Lawrie Smith. The tract with EF, a Swedish company selling language and educational products around

the world and which is investing £10m in a two-boat entry for the 1997-98 race.

Gallaher wants to recruit Smith because it sees him as the best skipper in Britain. Smith is highly resp ected by his competitors and turned around the Intrum Justitia challenge in the last Whithread. The negotiations with EF are understood to have centred on Gallaher buying into the Swedes' design and technology programme. EF has been using two 1993 boats, Intrum Justitia and Galicia, to choose crew and test sails. Masts and

EF is also building two new, Bruce Farr-designed boats in Sweden, one for an all-male crew at present skippered by Smith, the other for an allwoman crew. It is understood that the Silk Cut yacht, also designed by Bruce Farr, is being

built in Australia. While EF does not want to lose Smith, who skippered Rothmans in 1989-90 and another tobacco-sponsored yacht, Fortuna, in 1993-94 until it retired, the Swedes are likely to receive substantial compensation in return for releasing him

If the deal goes ahead. Smith may bring some of EF's British crew with him. Only four weeks ago EF announced that four Britons, Gordon Maguire, Neal McDonald, Adrian Stead and Steve Hayles, had joined their team. Despite earlier claims that they had signed written contracts, it is now understood that they have only verbal agreements. Smith would almost certainly want to retain some of his core crew in the

event of any move. Signs that the rush is on to announce the Silk Cut entry in the race have been seen this week

in Hamble. The 1993 Whitbread boat, Dolphin & Youth, which until recently had been the entry of the Sussex Challenge, is being painted there in Silk Cut colours. It is thought the yacht will be the centrepiece on the forecourt at Earls Court for the London Boat Show, which

opens in four weeks' time. Gallaher may even he preparing to announce plans to sponsor entries in the next two Whithreads. As an existing sponsorship, this could circumvent any possible future legislation banning cigarette promotion.

EF, meanwhile, would have to move smartly to find a replacement for Smith The Swedes spoke earlier this year to the 1993-94 race winner, the New Zealander Ross Field. about the possibility of his being skipper, but instead decided on the man who had been their No 1 choice

throughout.

If Smith does leave, the favourite to replace him is the San Francisco-based America > Cup skipper, Paul Cayard. However, the Frenchman, Marc Pajot, could also figure, along with two or three others.

Rowell returns to Underwood

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Tony Underwood had double cause for celebration vesterday. Not only did Jack Rowell, the England coach, recall the Newcastle wing to a 23-man squad for the international with Argentina on Saturday week, but he also waited until Jonah Lomu was well out of the way before doing so. Sighs of relief all round.

Underwood has not played Test rugby since conceding four tries to his New Zealand nemesis in Cape Town 18 months ago. It remains to be seen whether Rowell completes his rehabilitation by giving him a starting place - he will name his line-up on Monday - but the 27-yearold's pace would be of undeniable value to an England back division worryingly short of that all-important commodity.

If Rowell feels inclined to tinker with the side after last

weekend's defeat at the hands of the New Zealand Barbarians - and he should more than tinker with the midfield - Jeremy Guscott remains the most likely addition, possibly at the expense of Will Carling. But Underwood is now in a prime position to challenge Adedayo Adebayo for the left-wing berth and it will be no surprise to see him back in the limelight in time

for the start of the Five Nations. Although Underwood has played most of his international rugby on the right wing, it would be savagely hard of Row-ell to turn his back on Jon Sleightholme, who produced a class finish to score one of England's two tries against the New Zealanders. Besides, Sleightholme needs his Test place more than most because it is the only way he can get a game; his club selectors at Bath have again preferred Jason Robinson for this weekend's league match

French hopes lifted by return of Merle

France hope their powerful lock Olivier Merle, back in a revamped team for the second Test against the world champions, South Africa, in Paris on Saturday, will help them restore

Jean-Claude Skrela, referring to the first Test won 22-12 by the Springboks in Bordeaux.

Merle, fit again after a rib injury, is a tough customer in lineouts, scrums and mauls and is the sort of player France need to challenge the strong Springbok forwards.

Skrela, who has had to cope with a string of injuries, on Wednesday unveiled a team with six new names including the Bourgoin winger Laurent Leflamand, who will earn his first cap. and two changes of position.

The other players to come in are the winger David Venditti. outside-half Christophe Lamaison, the scrum-half Guy Acco-

ceberry and the hooker Marc Dal Maso. Richard Dourthé switches from wing to centre while the captain Abdelatif Benazzi moves from flanker to No 8.

"The players must understand that if you want to run the "Olivier has always been a ball, you have to fight to win it first-choice player this season first." Skrela said. "We thought and we missed him a lot last Sat- that was obvious at international in the first Test."

For the first time in their history, the Springboks will play four successive Tests with the same team as their squad for Saturday's match is unchanged from the first Test and two previous Tests in Argentina.

The hooker James Dalton, who left the pitch in Bordeaux with a bruised shoulder, should be fit and so should Joubert despite a minor thigh injury.

SPITE A MIMOR thigh injury.
FRANCE (v South Africa, Penis, Saturday):
J. Sadourny: Lustamend, R Dourthé, S Gas.
D Veratati, C Lamason, G Accocabeny; C Calfano, M Dai Maso, F Tournare, O Merie, F
Pelous, P Beneton, R Cassel, A Benaza Icapti.
SOUTH AFRIGA: A Joubert: J Small, J Mudder, H Le Roux, J Clinter, H Horiball, J vander Westhuzerr, D Theron, J Delton, A Garvey, K Wiese, M Andrews, R Kruger, A Venler, G Teichmann (capti).

England also named three contrasting A teams for next week's hectic second-string schedule. Three games in four days against Argentina, the Junior Springboks and Queensland give the selectors ample opportalent and the programme offers important opportunities to a handful of outstanding prospects. Richard Hill, the Saracens'

open-side flanker, faces both the Pumas and the Australians and two strong performances could persuade Rowell to juggle his senior back row, which lacks a natural breakaway element. The same is true at outside-half. Paul Grayson, last year's Test stand-off, gets a chance to impress along with Rob Liley of Leicester and, intriguingly, Mark Mapletoft of Gloucester. Organisers of the Heineken

European Cup have confirmed that Leicester's semi-final with holders Toulouse will take place at Welford Road on 4 January while Brive entertain Cardiff 24 hours later. If the final turns out to be an all-French affair, it will probably be held in Bordeaux on 25 January. Any other pairing will mean a final at the National Stadium in Cardiff on the same date. GRUM IM CAPTHI OR THE SAITHE CARE.

FINGLAND SQUAD by Argentina, Twichenham,

1A Dec; Backs: T Stimpson (Newcestie), J
Sleightholme (Bath), W Carling (Harlegurs),

16 Cart (Beth), A Gomersall (Wasps), J
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Dellegio (Wassa), C Sheasby (Masp.), B Clarke (Richmond), R Handwick (Coverby), P Greening (Goucester), V Ubegu (Beth).

ENGLAND A (v Argentina, Northempton, 10 Dec): N Beel (Northempton); D Lager (Herequirs), A Blyth (Northempton); D Lager (Personaton) (Received of Lexester), I Hanter (Northempton); P Grayson (Northempton), M Dearson (Northempton); M Volland (Northempton).

Volland (Northumpton), R Cockertii (Lecuster), D Garfort (Lecuster), B Carbor (Newcyste), D Stree (Soussett), M Cony (Enste), A Digrose (Soussett, Lecuster), R Cony (Enste), A Digrose (Soussett, Lecuster), R Hill (Saracons), Repistochester), B Westloomers, B Hill (Saracons), R Westloomers, R Walsho (Harfequins), N Westloom (Hartequins), R Kalless (London Irsh), W Davidson (Hartequins), Transilling reserves. If Perry (Beth), C Blumphy (West Hartepool).
ENGLAND A IV South Africa A, Glomosster, 11 Dec) C Carting (Gloucster); B Johnson (Army and Newbury), J Besendell (Selo), N Greenstock (Waspa), S Bromley (Hartepoins); R Libey (Lecuster), A Hosley (Lecuster); R Table (Beth), S Mitchell (Naspa), B Romley (Gloucster), G Allison (Hanequins), S (Joseb) (Bath, Leth), D Greences (Coverty), R Fider (Gloucster), G Allison (Hanequins), R Fider (Gloucster), S Rendon (Bath, Latt), R Jendon (Faspa), P Anglesses (Ores), Transelling reserves P Victory (Gloucster), Castelling (Rester), M Rendon (Enterpo), ENGLAND A (V Queensland, Gasteshood, 13 DEP) - Hambert (Enterpo), In Interest.

reserve P Victory (Gloucester).

PHGLAND A (v Queensland, Gabesheed, 13

DEC): J Malitader (Sole): D Luger (Harlequins).

W Greenwood (Josester). A Blyth (Newcaster).

J Sallon (Richmons): M Mapletoth (Gloucester).

M Dawson (Northampton capt): M Volkand
(Northampton). R Condeaff (Lucester). M Volkand
(Northampton). R Condeaff (Lucester). M Volkand
(Northampton). R Condeaff (Lucester). M Volkand
Sersceral, R Hill (Sarocens. Replacemente:
J Evens (Both). M Penry (Both), N Wahshe (Harlequins).

R Kelliem (London Irish).

W Green
(Wesps). W Davidson (Harlequins).



Jeers for Agassi's parting shot

ADRIAN WARNER reports from Munich

week break from the game here yesterday with the boos and whistles of angry, disappointed fans ringing in his ears. For the second time within a month, Agassi faced a cacophony of jeers and whistles from German fans after a 76-minute, 6-3, 6-4 defeat by the Australian doubles expert Mark Woodforde in the first round of

the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. The chorus of disapproval was not as loud it was in Hanover last month when Agassi put up a spineless display against the world No I, Pete Sampras, in the ATP World Championship and promptly pulled out of the event, citing illness.

been suffering with motivation

"I certainly am taking the time off in the hope and desire and plan of getting strong, fit and getting my game back to where it can be," he said. "I seem to thrive in kind of digging myself in a bit of a hole and getting excited to come out of it again. "None of it's worth it if you

just keep running yourself into the ground, if you keep having to play events and keep chasing your tail."

The defending champion, Goran Ivanisevic, had no such problems. The Croat powered past Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom. Îvanisevic put on a fine display of aggressive serving to clinch a 6-4, 6-2 victory in just 55 minutes.

the fast surface as both players hammered in massive serves. and needed a break from the Ivanisevic is capable of some game, and has decided to miss subtle tennis, but he rarely drama came in the seventh game of the first set when Ivanisevic had a break point.

Tillstrom's volley at the net clearly landed out but was called in. Ivanisevic argued with the umpire after watching a replay on the television screen above the court.

The Croat eventually cooled down and went on to clinch the set after 31 minutes after the best rally of the match during which he hit a half-volley through his legs. A break early in the next further settled his nerves, and Ivanisevic moved on

to the quarter-finals. Tim Henman, the British No 1, faces a quarter-final con-

The Swansea chief executive, Dan Minster, has left the club by mutual consent just two months after the resignation of the chairman, Mike James.

The Weish First Division club Durwant have registered the Fijian captain Joel Velteyald and back row man Emon Kata-

lau, both of whom played against Wales at Cardiff last year. Both were registered before the transfer deadline last week-end but they Still await work permits.

There were very few rallies on test with Mali Vai Washington which could earn him a \$425.000 (£257,000) if he beats the American today. Henman beat Germany's Michael Stich, the 1991

in the first round on Tuesday. The 22-year-old continues to insist that money is not the major incentive this week. "I know there is a lot of money at stake but I'm pleased with the way I've blocked it out of my mind. I'm happy to be playing in an event where there are huge amounts to be won but I'm focused on winning matches, not the mon-

ey," he said. Monica Seles was forced off court again by a nagging shoulder injury, retiring after losing the first set of her match against Slovakia's Karina Habsudova on her debut at the Komercni Banka Open in Brno, the Czech Republic, yesterday.

Danilovic puts the Heat on NY Knicks

Sasha Danilovic led the Miami Heat with seven out of seven from three-point range as Miami won their eighth successive game, a team record, routing the stumbling New York Knicks

Dan Majerle added 22 points to Danilovic's 21 for the Heat, who increased their lead to three games over the Knicks in the Atlantic Division of the National Basketball Association in winning their seventh straight away game. "We were humbled at

home," said the Knicks coach. Jeff Van Gundy, whose team have won four and lost four at Madison Square Garden. Danilovic, a 26-year-old Ser-

British clubs will be allowed six

overseas players next season in order to mop up a surplus of

Super League players in Australasia, writes Dave Hadfield.

The Rugby League Council

voted yesterday to increase the

quota from five, although the game's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, is warning the clubs not

to import players for the sake

of it. "But there is a surplus of

players in Australia at the

possible in the World Club

moment," he admitted.

Miami, said: "I was just open tonight, they gave me the ball at the right time and I just made the shots. I am just playing the same game I always play."

It was first win at Madison Square Gardon for the Heat

coach, Pat Riley, since resigning as the Knicks coach in 1995.

He was roundly booed, as he was last season when Miami lost twice in New York. Allan Houston had 14 points and Larry Johnson and Patrick Ewing added 12 apiece for the Knicks, who never led. "Quite frankly, I just felt that tonight's game, we just didn't bring a

competitive spirit," the Knicks forward Buck Williams said. In Milwaukee, Michael Jordan scored 40 points and unherald-

Clubs are allowed an extra Australian

deny our clubs the upportuni-ty of signing a quality player if there is one available."

subject to any overseas quota,

have taken on board two more

Australians surplus to require-

ments in their homeland, the

Manly front row Matt Dunford

and Josh White, a half-back

Paris are also exempt from any

restrictions and are likely to

field a largely Australian team

next season, which will compete

in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup

from Illawarra.

Challenge. We don't want to drawn at home they will play at utility player.

"The other factor is that we on the same basis as any other

want to be as competitive as club, it has been decided.

London Broncos, who are not

bian in his second season with ed Jason Caffey inspired a pivotal fourth-quarter run with six points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Bucks 107-104. Jordan recorded his 148th career game of 40-plus points as the Bulls turned an 80-80 tie into a 14-point lead with

four minutes to play. In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal scored 32 points, including four in the final 63 seconds, and had 14 rebounds to lead the Lakers to a 110-106 win over the Seattle SuperSonics in a meeting of the Pacific Division's top two teams.

Nick Van Exel scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half, Byron Scott added 16 and Eddie Jones had 15 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Los Angeles who moved within one game of Seattle at the top.

home, and will not have to

switch to the ground of their

English opponents, as has been

the case with French teams in

the proposal for a new unified

governing body to oversee both

the professional and amateur

arms of the game. The propos-

al for an eight-man body, four

from each side of the long run-

ning schism, was approved

unanimously. It will now be put

to the vote by Barla, the ama-

Swinton have signed Sean

Cascy, the 24-year-old White-

teur body, in the new year.

That means if Paris are haven and former St Helens

The Council has also backed

the Regal Trophy.

.882 .867 .438 .333 .278 1 .133 .118 PACIFIC DIVISION

EASTERN CONFER ATLANTIC DIVISION

CIS INSURANCE SCOTTISH INDOOR MAS-TERS (Custoridge) Semi-finals: G Robertson (Scot bt A Thomson (Eng) 7-1 1-7 7-3; D Gourtay (Scot) bt D Peacock (Scot) 7-6 7-8.

Football 7.30 unless stated FA YOUTH CUP First round: Preston North End FA CARLSBERG VASE &

Basketball

SPORTING DIGEST Cricket BecaseAst Labours MBs; Mains 105 Boston 95; Cleveland 93 Yostonio 74; Minnesota 89 Sacramento 96; Meer York T5 Mism 99; Merculee 104 Chocago 107; Portland 93 Indiens 98 (cdf; Golden State 114 Denver 95; La Clippers 98; Charlotte 89; LA Lekers 110 Seettle 176.

Nottinghamshire's Paul Franks has been called into the Engand Under-19 party currently touring Pakistan. Franks, who has skippered his country at Under-15 and Under-17 levels, will fly out to Pakistan today for the start of the first Test at the weekend.

South Africa were 33 without loss in their

sount Airica were 33 without loss in their second irinings at the close of play on the second day of their three-day game against India A in Nagpur. India had made 340 in reply to the tourists' 385 for 5 declared. Frontically
The Italian player Cristiano Gagliarducci
of Serie C club Frosinone has tested
positive for caffeine. The Italian footbell federation said the first test was
carried out after a home metah against
Catania on 17 November and a second sample had confirmed the result.
Thomas Helmer, the Bayern Munich defender, has had his gall bladder removed
in an operation yesterday. He will miss
Germany's World Cup qualifier against
Portugal later this month – as will
Thomas Hassler, Mehrner Scholl and
Oliver Blethoff, who are also injured.
MATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Pature
damagee Fil 31. Iam Fulture of Cardin from Sar.
1 Fieb., San 2 Febt Output Uel v Menchestr City
from Sat 1 Febt. Fil 7 Fater Sode v Oxford Uta
from Sat 8 Feb). San 9 Febt Shedled Up v Norwich from Sat 8 Febt.

TRANSFERS Sab Dylestra (preliment) Queen's

Boxing

The former world featherweight cham-pion Steve Robinson, who fights Billy Herdy for the European featherweight the in Sunderland on 11 January, yes-terday won his fight against a bankruptoy petition brought by his former promot-ers Barry Hearn and Tommy Gilmout.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

DR MARTENS CUP First round second legs Bi-

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Servi-finals first log: Streffetd v Newcastle (7.45); Leggerds v Lon-

WORLD RANGINGS Leading positions: 1 G Norman (Aug. 10,67pts; 2 T Lehman (US) 9.54; 3 E Ele (SA) 9.02; 4 C Morreprenere (Soc) 8.90; 5 N Feido (Eleg 8.57; 6 F Cauptes (US) 8.55; 7 P Michelson (US) 7.85; 8 M Ottols (Lepen 7.58; 9 D Luce III (US) 7.53; 10 M O'Meara (US) 7.11; 11 C Padh (US) 6.88; 12 S Shrister (US) 7.19; 540ccted; 27 I Woosnam (Wa) 4.62.

arroya 1205_CA. Harttone: 26 LL (307.13) VERNOUSE: Trobble chance: 2405a no client, 22 526,514.40, 22 £114.95, 21 £15.60. Super Shots £130.30, Premier 10 £63.70. SRITTONS: Trobble chance: 230ta £3,052.10, 22 £8.40, 21 £0.90. Four draws £6.15. Eight homes; £5.95. Pire arroys £179.75.

Scotland became the Johnnie Walker European team champions for the fourth time in six attempts in Spain yes-terday. England, in third place behind Spain, the defending champions, were fired by an inspired last nine holes from Cool Europe

Spell, the section of the thinking when spell as nine holes from Ged Furry.

Johnson Wallich European Team Championship (Abalinya Park, Marbalia, Sp) Final-read scores (select the address count): 414 Spen, 431 Ergand 16 Furry 99, 10 Miss 70, 421 Spen, 431 Ergand 16 Furry 99, 10 Miss 70, 421 Spen, 431 Ergand 16 Furry 99, 10 Miss 70, 432 Spen, 433 Fedard (Missing To, Dhistony 77), 443 Wales (P Mayo 71, Wilcohet 73), Friend, 443 Austra, Dermank, Casch Republic, 444 Germany, AMERICAN EXPRESS TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL (A Missing Sp) Landing second-cound scenes (68 or 11 mileos stated): 138 M-J Rutsau (Carl 68 70, 140 Taken 70 Aug. 147 Aug. 147 Missing Mi

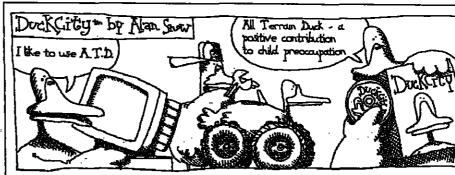
Hockey stands on the threshold of a new era following yesterday's volte by the men's Hockey Association Council in favour of forming a new, single, national governing body for men and women. Subject to a similar vote by the women's association, the result of which will be known on Saturday, the new association will come into being from 1. June next year.

Pools dividends
INTLEWOODS: Trable chance: 24sts no clert. 23 E79.084,75, 22 E278,70, 21 E20,45, 20 E4.30, Four draws £10.25, 10 homes £45.50, Five aways (pask on towns) £882,20, Naththas: 23 £17,857,15.

end but they still await work permits.
South Africa's Joel Stransky will be on the replacements' bench for the Barberians in Saturday's match against Australia at Twickenham. Stransky, whose drop goal clinched victory over New Zealand in the World Cup final 18 months ago, will be the understudy to the Barbarians captain, Rob Andrew.
BARBARIANS Replacements (v Australia, Twickenham, Scharday): Ni Alleo (Northampton). J Stransky (Neal and Sa), A Money (Northampton). J Stransky (Neal and Sa), A Money (Northampton). J Stransky (Neal and Sa), A Medwick: (Coventy), G Dave (Bat and England). G Wet (Newcastie and Sociand).
SCOTLAND UNDER-21. (v Raig, Invariatis, Friday, 13 December): C Turnited (havids): p Bat (Schare of Coventry).

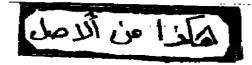
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8 N Core (Leaner) 139.58367; 9 L Deverport (US)
138.6510; 10 8 Paulus (Aux 87.7813.



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FA Cup glory, page 26

Croft gives England some relief at last

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Harare England 197 Mashonaland 279-9

David Houghton, Zimbabwe's veteran player-coach, kept up the pressure on struggling Eng-land with a brilliant innings of 110 for Mashonaland in Harare yesterday. However, the spin-ners Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell produced a dramatic final-hour fightback to finally put some smiles back on the tourists' faces.

The second day of England's opening four-day fixture in Zimbabwe ended with Mashonaland 82 runs ahead on 279 for 9, with Croft's last spell of the day bringing him 4 for 5 in six overs and Tufnell also finishing with four wickets.

An hour after tea, however, after a long slog under a fierce sun at the Harare Sports Club, things looked totally different with Mashonaland on 258 for 3. But Turnell then held one up just enough to induce a return

catch from Houghton and England's toil was about to bring re-

land's first innings 197. During the first 50 minutes of play, Croft and Tufnell took their last-wicket stand to 52 after England had resumed on 175 for 9 after Tuesday's em-

barrassing first day.

Darren Gough then took an selves afloat.

Tufnell, who has 4 for 77 overall so far, was the benefi-ciary of both incidents. First the opener Grant Flower was adjudged lbw for 28 as he swept with his front pad a long way down the pitch and then the Middlesex slow left-armer won an appeal for a catch at slip by Nasser Hussain, after Alistair Campbell had seemed to miss

Pakistan owe win to Saqlain's guile

The off-spinner Saglain Mushtaq claimed 5 for 44 to help Pakistan to an 11-run victory over New Zealand in the opening one-day international in Gujranwala yesterday.

The 20-year-old returned his best figures in limited-overs cricket as the visitors, chasing Pakistan's 228 for 8, were dismissed for 217, two balls short of the 46 overs specified. Bryan Young was top scorer

for the tourists with a fluent 58 off 93 balls containing three fours, while Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns contributed 36 each and Adam Parore 35.

Young shared a second-wicket stand of 78 with Parore after six. They took the score to 104 5-44). Paidstan won by 11 runs.

Six wickets fell in the space of nine overs, Croft ending the day with figures of 4 for 65 to go with his 80 not out in Eng-

early wicket in an impressive new-ball burst before lunch, but during a long afternoon England needed the good fortune of two debatable umpiring decisions just to keep them-

a drive and the ball had

Mushtaq Ahmed. Young then lost his middle stump to a fiery Waqar Younis delivery at 117. Fleming and Cairns added 60 in just 9.4 overs, but Cairns edged a catch to Moin Khan behind the stumps off Younis at 177 and eight runs later Fleming was

when Parore was leg before to

though Chris Harris made a quick 20, it was not enough. Pakistan, batting first after winning the toss, were helped to a respectable total by half-centuries from Salim Malik and their captain, Wasim Akram.

stumped off Saglain. The visitors

then succumbed to Saglain and

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Gujranmala Paid: Pakssan 228 for 8 (46 overs; Salim Ma B. 73m Waston Alemon 57th New Zentand 21)

deflected off the pads of the wicketkeeper Alec Stewart.

Campbell, the Mashonaland and Zimbabwe captain, had made 55 from 76 balls and the left-hander walked off in obvious disgust at the decision. Later, however, he said he accepted the umpire's decision even though he was astonished at being given out.

However, England still seemed to be losing control of the match as Houghton was joined by Craig Wishart in a fourth-wicket partnership which eventually realised 116. The 39-year-old Houghton was at times quite majestic, and he reached both his 50 and his century with swept sixes off Tufnell.

Houghton averages 48 from his 18 Tests and it was easy to see why yesterday as he struck 14 boundaries in his 141-ball innings. But then came England's recovery, with Croft, the Glamorgan all-rounder, adding to his already fast-growing reputa-tion with a spell which may yet be a turning point on a pitch which is expected to take more

and more spin as it wears.

"All you need in cricket is one wicket and things can change," David Lloyd, the England coach, said after the day's play. We stuck at it and after a bit of an onslaught both spinners steadied themselves and they then got their reward."

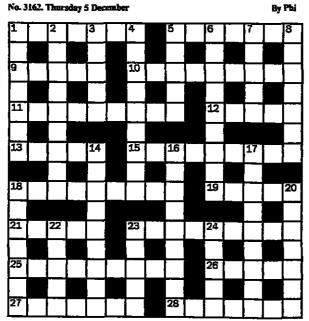
Falk 1-3 2-4 3-7 4-27 5-63 6-88 7-94 8-125 9-145.

Bowling: Kirtley 25.1-4-53-5; B C S 19-2-52-1; Brent 8-1-20-1; P A S 16-5-30-0; Matambanatan 6-0-24-1- R

R J Kirdley not out

pires: K Kanjee and D Kalan

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Sweet that makes part of mouth go into decline (7)

Cuts through taking a brief time in some parts (7) Relative, one not liked initial-

the sporting challenge (9)
11 Outlaw that's removed food, naving absorbed scripture?

12 Very good joke recalled by attractive person (3-2)
13 Was false about new looking ld? (5)

15 Writer – another that's involved with W H? (9) find 11? (9)

as evidence (5)
21 Soil exhibited in the Art House (5)

 23 Odds on the girl's in charge, having a student round (9)
 25 Way Euro is rubbished after Government department

Scotsman is going round Biblical mountain (5) Relative, one and according to the state of harvest under cold and according to the state of harvest under cold and according (7) weather conditions (7)
Wild West hero has to pull on silencer? (3-4) DOWN

Rewarding in France (in old France, that is) (7) Just a tiny fraction in factory into working hard (9)
Oarsman seeing nothing we Greek character in per-

supporting British (5)

Outfit's bound to start tradstop company that's taken over half the capital (5) Connection between cells or pens, say, to be demolished

ing a nightmare? (4, 5)
Writer who gets employment after penning poem (9)

17 What's unexpectedly not oral, yet found round about

part of tooth? (4, 5) Decorates (and how!) display at rink (3-4) Collapsible enclosure in front of garden (7) Argument over one tree (5) forming troupe gets lead in Shakespeare (9) and reluctantly (5)
24 Part of stair where man goes

un before Queen (5)

Threat to Olympic competition

Football

Fifa, the world governing body, is considering a proposal to abolish the Olympic tournament, setting up in its place an under-23 world championship. The issue goes before the executive committee, which is meeting in Barcelona on Saturday.

If Fifa set up its own Under-23 World Championship and the IOC [International Olympic Committee] wanted to keep soccer in the Olympics, that could lead to problems," Keith Cooper, a Fifa spokesman, said yesterday. "The IOC can't do it without the approval of Fifa any more than they can stage an archery tournament if the International Archery Federation doesn't want to take

With the exception of the 1932 Games in Los Angeles, football has been in the Olympics since 1900, repeatedly running into problems over who should be allowed to play. Fifa closely guarded the exclusivity of the World Cup and refused to let all the leading players take part in

maybe football should go out of the Olympics because it doesn't get enough consideration." of view. But it would not be wise or in the interests of football for it to be a completely open quality line-ups meant the Olympic tournament rarely The proposal to start a world made the headlines until this year's Games in Atlanta, where under-23 competition may even

gain the support of the English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Nigeria upset the leading nations, Brazil and Argentina, to Ireland Football Associations, become the first African winners. Organisers thought they had because they are not recognised reached a good compromise in individually by the IOC and are ineligible for the Olympics. Atlanta when the competition was based on players aged 23 Even if the championship is approved, the Olympic tourna-ment should remain safe for the and under, plus three over-age competitors. However, that at-2000 Games in Sydney at least. tracted critics, too, culminating The likelihood is Fifa will not go with the proposal from within the executive committee to set as far as creating a conflicting

a completely open Olympic tournament. Soccer is the only placement for the Olympic tournament. "It would make the Olympic men's tournament tosport in the Olympics that has this age restriction and some tally redundant," Cooper said. Gilbert Felli, the IOC sports people feel that in some way that director, said he was aware that some Fifa officials have talked about taking football out of the Olympics. After the Games, they were not happy that they were in Athens and not

up a Fifa-backed world cham-

pionship in that age group as re-

is against the spirit of the Olympics," Cooper said. "Around 1.4m spectators watched the Olympic tournament at all its venues. More people watched the tournain Atlanta," Felli said. "There ment than any other sport in the were some comments that Games from the financial point

tournament but will continue to

reject the IOC's pleas to allow

or in the interests of football for it to be a completely open event, because that effectively means some kind of World Cup every two years."

The United Arab Emirate the bosts, came from behind yesterday to draw 1-1 with South Korea yesterday in the opening match of the Asian Cup tournament. Hwang Sun-hong who scored South Korea's goal, could have settled matters in injury time when, with only the goalkeeper to beat, he shot

just wide of the right post. Hwang, running on to a delightful through ball from midfield, opened the scoring in the ninth minute. He fired a leftfoot-shot from just inside the penalty area into the bottom corner of the goal.

But as South Korea's domination began to to become embarrassing, the UAE hit back through their striker Khamis Saad. The Korean central defenders failed to clear an easy

cross, presenting Saad with his ring PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St

Mansell to test for Jordan

Motor racing

back for Nigel Mansell's moved a step closer last night after he accepted an opportunity to test drive a Jordan-Peugeot in Barcelona next week

Mansell will engage in a two-day test after meeting Eddic Jordan at Silverstone yesterday to discuss the possibility of drift ving for the team next season It was in Barcelona in June last year that Mansell seeming-iy walked away from the sport for good after returning his McLaren Mercedes to complete a miser able two race comeback. Since then, the 43-year-old former world champion has hinted that he might return - but only if the package was right.

"There's no commitment from either party beyond this test. Nigel is Britain's most suc-cessful Formula One driver of all time and it's an honour for everyone at Jordan to give him this run," Jordan said.

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